

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015

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60P WHERE SOLD

DELIGHT AT TOWN FESTIVAL SUCCESS

Report by Sue Austin

THIS year's Oswestry Literary Festival has been a huge success with many of its events completely selling out, delighted organisers have revealed.

The festival fortnight is drawing to a close after audiences flocked to Oswestry to enjoy appearances from high profile writers including Judy Finnigan, Richard Madeley, Alastair Campbell and Jesse Armstrong.

Other highlights have been appearances by authors Sophie Hannah and Frank Cottrell Boyce.

And there was double reason to celebrate after it was announced Oswestry's Booka Bookshop, owned by LitFest director Carrie Morris and her husband Tim Morris, was named one of the seven best independent bookshops in the UK.

John Waine, the founder of Oswestry LitFest, said he was "absolutely thrilled" at the festival success.

Frank Cottrell Boyce said: "Festivals like the LitFest are so important for towns like Oswestry as they help to draw the community in and meet people who they wouldn't normally have the chance to. They also really help to put a place on the map."

And LitFest PR officer Jools Payne revealed: "In all, we expect over 3,000 people will have benefited from seeing our amazing visiting authors, writers, broadcasters and performers this festival."

Organisers said more than 850 people attended LitFest events over the opening weekend alone. Among them were 400 children who saw author Huw Powell, writer of the Spacejackers series, who went into schools while a sell-out crowd of 240 people was at the Wynnstay Hotel to enjoy an appearance from Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley.

An audience of more than 200 heard from Alastair Campbell at the Lion Quays Hotel near Oswestry and an appearance by Oswestry writer Jesse Armstrong on Tuesday night was another sell-out.

During the festival it was announced Booka Bookshop had been named the best independent bookshop in the Midlands and Wales for the second year running.

Mrs Morris said: "As one of seven regional winners, we now go forward to make up the shortlist for the UK & Ireland Independent Bookshop of the Year, to be announced at The Bookseller Industry Awards in London in May – fingers crossed."

"This would be a great coup for Oswestry, so we'd like to ask, if you are on Twitter and would like to support Booka's bid, to tweet @BookaBookshop with the hashtag #bookabia15."

For details of the remaining LitFest events, including an encore event with businesswoman Dame Stephanie Shirley on April 8, visit www.oswestrylitfest.co.uk

• Winning – See Page 3

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PLANNING

Supermarket bid given planning approval by council

PLANS for Oswestry's latest supermarket have been approved.

The new Aldi on Shrewsbury Road will create 40 new jobs. More than 70 letters of support had been submitted for the new shop with 10 objections, mainly on the loss of the Gate House, an ancient tollhouse on the edge of the site, and potential traffic issues.

The new shop will be built next to the New Fairholme care home.

It will be the second Aldi store in the town operating alongside an existing shop in Oswald Road, which bosses say is operating at full capacity, and will create 25 full-time and 15 part-time jobs.

Oswestry Town Council had not objected to the plans, but had asked that Shropshire Council negotiate with Aldi to retain the Gate House.

Representatives from Aldi visited the town council last year when they told councillors that a heritage expert had inspected the building and said that there was so little of the original left, there was little chance of it being accepted for listing.

They said that if Aldi was given planning permission for its new store, it would install an interpretation board with historical photographs and information about tollhouses. Planning officers confirmed this idea by making it a condition that there should be some sort of record on the site about the Gate House.

CRIME

Drugs found at makeshift factory

TWO people have been released on bail after £50,000 worth of cannabis was found at a makeshift factory near Welshpool.

A man and a woman were arrested after the drugs were found at Castle Caereinion on Monday.

Inspector Darren Brown, of Welshpool Police, said: "We can now report the arrest of two people on suspicion of the cultivation and possession of cannabis following the discovery of what is believed to be cannabis plants in a property in Castle Caereinion, Welshpool."

"A male and a female remain on police bail whilst investigations are ongoing."

INSIDE

SUN GIVES A BIT OF FUN



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Marches School students have been cooking up a storm in the kitchen. Find out why on Page 9.

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Report by Andrew Morris

EDUCATION in Mid Wales faces a "dramatic" shake-up in a bid to bring the service up to standard.

Powys County Council is looking at closing a number of schools in the county in a bid to save money and improve the service.

The council's chief executive, Jeremy Patterson, told a meeting of the council's cabinet on Tuesday that major changes need to be made to the service.

The council is looking at potentially closing Gwernyfed and Brecon High Schools and replacing them with a new £50 million school, while a review will be carried out in the Builth Wells and Llandrindod Wells area. The review would then move to Montgomeryshire later this year. The cabinet passed a recommendation to move ahead with the work.

Mr Patterson told the cabinet meeting: "It is important to stress how we ended up here."

"We have agreed that adequate isn't good enough and we have challenges to overcome in the education system."

"We can't face up to these challenges in the current structure. We have falling pupil numbers and we are losing pupils over the border to England."

"We are also seeing the best teachers going elsewhere."

Councillor Arwel Jones, who is the cabinet member for schools, said the urgent need for transformation came because of falling pupil numbers.

He told the meeting: "The number of pupils entering the secondary sector is falling steadily putting huge educational and financial pressures on our schools."

"Only two schools - Crickhowell and Llanfyllin High Schools - received more applications than they had places available."

Meanwhile the meeting heard the council still needs to save £3.8 million by the end of the financial year.

Powys County Council said earlier this year that it needs to save £17,567 million by April, but it has so far only achieved £13,694 million - 78 per cent.

The authority now faces having to make up the savings from reserves.

Councillor Wynne Jones, portfolio holder for finance, said: "It is important that the council's financial position is maintained and an important part of this is the delivery of agreed savings."

AN unlikely discovery in an American motoring magazine has led to a unique collection of more than 1,000 model cars being put on permanent display in Montgomery.

The magazine had highlighted the fascinating collection at the little known Clovelands Museum at Llansantffraid, the life's work of car enthusiast Gillian Rogers.

When local businessman and author Bruce Lawson read the Society of Automotives Historians Journal feature, he decided to contact Miss Rogers.

Now the collection has moved to a new home at the Montgomery Institute, which held an open day on Saturday before the exhibition's official opening in May.

The collection was built up over 60 years, the life's work of Miss Rogers who worked for Caffyns - a major south coast motor dealer. "Miss Rogers recalls halcyon motoring days with characters driving such cars as the Daimler Conquest, Sunbeam Alpine and Sunbeam Tiger, and she herself owned a 1935 Singer Le Mans for over 40 years," Mr Lawson said.

"Early Christmas and birthday gifts formed the basis of her collection and Miss Rogers assembled many of the early models herself from kit form."

The Clovelands collection is an array of car models from the birth of motoring to the present day and includes a model Victorian

Panhard, a host of Rolls-Royce cars, Bugatti and Bentleys. Mr Lawson added: "There are three cars of one-third scale and there are many examples of Grand Prix and Land Speed Record cars - Golden Arrow, Sunbeam and Bluebird among them."

"There are German, Italian and French models, and from further afield American and Japanese along with a themed display of cars preparing for the annual London to Brighton Run."

The collection is housed at the institute in Arthur Street and manned by volunteers. A preview week will run from Easter Saturday daily until April 11, excluding Easter Sunday.

New home for fascinating car collection



Roy Mathews takes a look at the collection of toy cars at the Montgomery Institute

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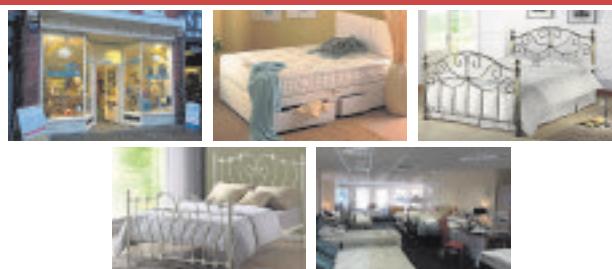


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A5 route study set to take place

A STUDY into whether the A5 near Oswestry should be turned into a dual carriageway will get underway next week.

Roads minister John Hayes says Highways England - the newly named Highways Agency - will start work at the beginning of April on a thorough look at whether the road from the Shrewsbury bypass to the Wrexham bypass could be dualled.

Campaigners have been calling for the Oswestry bypass to be made a dual carriageway since it was first built more than 25 years ago.

The study is one of the first projects to come from cross border talks between the Government and the Welsh Assembly over issues facing those living on the border of Wales and England. Mr Hayes said: "In the meetings representatives from both bodies will discuss matters that are not exclusively the responsibility of either the Highways Agency or Welsh Assembly but where the two bodies need to work together."

He said highways issues have proved one of the major talking points so far. He said the agency was undertaking a study of the A5 trunk road north of Shrewsbury.

Mr Hayes said: "A traffic survey will be completed by the end of March.

"This will then be fed into a study proper which will start at the beginning of the financial year."

Battle time at village's castle

WHITTINGTON Castle will play host to a group of Napoleonic re-enactors this weekend during the 200th anniversary year of the Battle of Waterloo.

During the weekend, the re-enactors will set up camp from 10am to 4pm with displays and activities scheduled each day.

Groups confirmed to attend so far include 5/60th Rifles, Coldstream Guards, Anglesey Hussars, 23rd RWF, Black Brunswickers, 6th Foot (1st Warwickshire) and 4th Kings Own Foot.

Steve Davies, who has organised the groups and is leader of the 5/60th Riflemen, said: "The scenario we are doing is the Siege of Badajoz, looking at four cannons and 60 infantry. Camp will be as big as if not bigger than last year, and this will be the only time that these re-enactors will be at Whittington Castle due to their hectic schedules."

Writer enjoys his LitFest homecoming

SHROPSHIRE lad Jesse Armstrong returned to his home town of Oswestry as one of the stars of its literary festival.

The Bafta winning and Oscar nominated writer said he was incredibly proud to be on stage at the Oswestry Literary Festival yet at the same time nervous to be speaking to an audience of many friends, family, his former teacher and even babysitter.

The co-creator of the Peep Show revealed at his appearance at Kinokulture cinema in Oswestry on Tuesday evening that he was currently writing the new series.

He said: "I think that this is going to be the last series."

"We have followed them from 30 to now they are 40 and I don't think they should continue in their sad lives."

The writer of a host of other come-

dies including In the Loop, The Thick of It, Fresh Meat and the film, Four Lions, talked about his career, meeting co-writer Sam Bain at Manchester University, and of his first and new novel, Love, Sex and Other Foreign Policy Goals.

LitFest continues at the weekend when Llanymynech Amateur Dramatic Society will present Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew

tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday. Before then historian Marc Morris will talk about his best seller King John this evening while tomorrow best selling author Matt Haig talks about his new book Reasons to Stay Alive.

For details of the remaining LitFest events, including an encore event with businesswoman Dame Stephanie Shirley on April 8, visit www.oswylitfest.co.uk

Campbell still has the famous winning touch

Report by Pam Kingsley

ALASTAIR Campbell proved he's still got the winning touch when he gave a talk as part of Oswestry LitFest.

Starting his talk at the Lion Quays Hotel, Mr Campbell admitted he was there to "flog a load of books and promote the wonderful award-winning Booka Bookshop".

The capacity audience on Thursday last week settled in for an evening which touched on novel writing and the mind set of English footballers before getting on to political issues.

Mr Campbell spent some time talking about US presidents, from George W Bush's command of the English language - "misunderestimating was my favourite" - and Bill Clinton having to sleep on the sofa following the Monica Lewinsky incident.

But it wasn't long before the audience got the hear what many had been eagerly anticipating - Mr Campbell's prediction for the General Election.

He said: "My political nose tells me Labour can win, the numbers say no-one will win."

Mr Campbell is a prolific writer having published nine books - a mixture of novels, diaries and political insight.

His latest book, Winners: And How They Succeed, includes interviews with sports stars, successful businessmen and women, and politicians, and went to the top of the best sellers list in four days.

"I don't know why I wrote this book other than the idea appealed," he said.

"There's a lot of negativity around at the moment and I wanted to write a very positive book but in a way mere mortals can understand."



Alastair Campbell makes a point to the LitFest audience at the Lion Quays Hotel near Oswestry

NEWS IN BRIEF

Railway season about to start

THE new visitor season on a railway in Mid Wales is about to begin, with a special visitor hopping aboard just a fortnight later.

The Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway will open for the summer season on Saturday.

The Easter Bunny will then drop by over the Easter weekend from Good Friday, with fun for children on the line. The bunny will have hidden some of his Easter eggs at various locations along the eight-mile route and children riding on the trains will be encouraged to spot as many of them as they can.

At the end of their journey on presenting their completed treasure hunt form to station staff they will be rewarded with a free chocolate egg.

There will be plenty of opportunity to spot the eggs too, as between Easter Saturday and Easter Monday two trains will be in operation, ensuring everyone visiting will have plenty of opportunity to take a steam-hauled ride along the Banwy Valley.

Fun day to take place at market

A GOOD Friday fun day will be held in Oswestry market with Easter egg hunts, fairground rides, children's activities and a bouncy castle.

The event will run from 10.30am to 2pm at the Bailey Head market.

Oswestry Town Council has organised the main event, with churches from around the town providing some of the entertainment.

Children will be invited to follow an Easter egg trail around the market to win a chocolate egg, do crafts and colouring and listen to a story; adults will be offered a free shoe shine, and people of all ages will be asked to guess the weight of Bill the Pets As Therapy dog.

Joyful Noise Community Choir will perform at 11.45am followed by a short mime. Other attractions include a cup and saucer ride, bouncy castle, a visit by Mary Poppins, and a display of live owls.

Hens killed by dogs

THIRTEEN hens were killed and a further four injured after being attacked by two dogs.

The two dogs - described as similar in size to a Labrador, one black and one brown - entered a poultry shed and field in Forden on Friday.

The dogs then attacked the hens before escaping.

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Friday 3rd April

10.00am. Family Service
Sung by the Junior Choir & Choral Scholars

12.00noon. Three Hours Devotions

Good Friday

7.30pm. Easter Vigil
(Sung by the Choral Scholars & Adult Choir)

Holy Saturday

Sunday 5th April

10.30am. Festival Eucharist
6.30pm. Festal Evensong

Services sung by the Parish Church Choir

Easter Day

MP outlines arguments on leaving the European Union

Report by Sue Austin

NORTH Shropshire MP Owen Paterson has firmly nailed his colours to the mast to leaving the European Union in a major transatlantic speech in Washington, saying it would strengthen the economy and the UK's national security.

Mr Paterson, who has been made a 25-1 bet to take over from David Cameron as Conservative leader after Mr Cameron made it clear he will not serve a third term if he were to win the general election in May, flew to America to deliver a speech to the think tank, Heritage Foundation, in front of influential US conservatives.

Concerns are voiced over health costs

THE costs of treating Welsh patients across the border in Shropshire is "unsustainable", Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies has warned.

He said people from his constituency are being sent to Shropshire without the budget transfer to pay for the treatment.

It was revealed last week that health chiefs in Shropshire are paying an extra £700,000 a year to treat Welsh patients.

Mr Davies said the Welsh Affairs Committee's recent cross-border health study recommended the UK and Welsh governments work together to examine how improvements can be made.

He said: "The Welsh Affairs Committee inquiry was not about the merits of the increasingly separate healthcare systems in Wales and England, but focused on areas where there is urgent need for co-operation between them to ensure improved cross-border co-ordination.

"The main finding in the report is that there is simply not enough information provided to patients about the impact of differences in health policy for those who rely on healthcare facilities on either side of the border.

"Only last week, we learned that more Montgomeryshire patients are being sent to Shropshire without budget transfer to pay for treatment, and Montgomeryshire patients are having to stay in Shropshire hospitals because there are no care packages agreed back home. This is not sustainable in the future."

He said he was proposing an 'Anglo-Sphere Alliance' – a new global role for the United Kingdom – and gave a wide-reaching number of reasons why the UK should leave the European Union. The UK should look to the USA, Canada, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the Commonwealth Nations, as well as South Asia in the future, he said during the speech yesterday. (Wednesday).

"British withdrawal from the European Union will reinvigorate Europe and our exit will strengthen both the global trading system and the foundations of global security," he said.

Mr Paterson said that every continent on Earth was experiencing steady economic growth except Europe, with a catastrophic lack of European job creation.

In a highly critical attack on EU bureaucracy, the Shropshire MP said the union was weighed down by unsustainable burdens, explained differences between the Single Market and the EU and said that leaving the EU would not damage Britain's ability to continue its trade with European neighbours.

He said: "You can stay in the Single Market and not be in the EU. It is the Single Market comprising the 31 member European Economic Area that delivers jobs, not the EU."

Entering the European free trade association and European Economic Area would mean the UK could still enjoy trading benefits without the cost of the political and judicial baggage, he said.

As a former Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Paterson said he was only too aware that EU laws were being superseded by international law from food standards and animal health to vehicle regulation and banking. He ended his speech with a warning that global political stability was at stake, condemning calls by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker for a European Army, warning that the creation of such a force would undermine Western security.

Eclipse provides natural thrill



Pupils at Moreton Hall School near Oswestry took the chance to view the eclipse

IT was a breathtaking but relatively rare celestial event – and people of all ages stopped what they were doing to bask in the wonder of the solar eclipse.

People throughout the Oswestry and Welsop area looked to the heavens on Friday last week to witness the eclipse from a variety of viewing points.

Schools throughout the area took part in the event with many classes taking the opportunity to go outside and learn more about the eclipse.

Among them were pupils from Moreton Hall School at Gledrid near Oswestry.

The youngsters took time out of lessons to watch the eclipse and made a time lapse video of what they saw.

After an assembly focused on the science behind the eclipse, the whole of Moreton Hall stopped for 45 minutes to observe the eclipse through safety glasses.

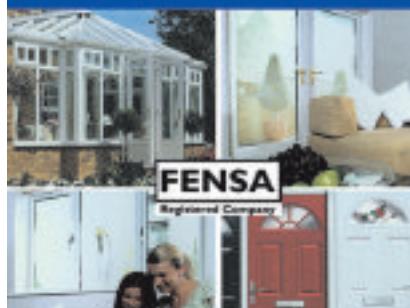
Meanwhile Oswestry's ancient hillfort proved a great vantage point for some skygazers.

Sam Goodwin, 17, and his dad Phil from Oswestry made pinhole cameras to view the eclipse from the top of the hillfort.

A crisp tube became a pin hole camera for Alec Griffiths, 19, his mum, Bernadette and his girlfriend, Natalie Whyte, 21, while Steve Adams, 32 and Hannah Lloyd, 23, from Oswestry rigged up a home made device on which to project the image from their telescope.

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New rail services to boost business, campaigners say

Report by Andrew Morris

FOUR new daily train services between Shropshire and Mid Wales will begin in May, it has been confirmed.

The Welsh Assembly said the new services will mean trains run between Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth on an hourly basis during peak times.

The news has been hailed as a huge boost to the region's economy by Mansel Williams, chairman of the Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury Railway Liaison Committee.

Campaigners have been calling on an hourly service to be introduced to the line, which calls at Welshpool and Newtown, for years.

Last year, Welshpool Town Council carried out surveys on trains along the route, finding that the majority of people were in favour of more services.

Councillor Stephen Kaye said the services would allow business to flourish in the region, allowing better movement between the two areas.

The four additional return services will operate between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury between Mondays and Saturdays, leaving Aberystwyth at 6.30am, 8.30am, 12.30pm and 6.30pm, meaning there is an hourly service during the rush hours.

There will also be two new return Sunday services, leaving Aberystwyth at 10.30am and 2.33pm.

There will also be extra journeys introduced on the Heart of Wales Line between Llandrindod Wells and Shrewsbury which Edwina Hart, Welsh transport minister, said will create 20 new jobs.

Mrs Hart said: "These investments demonstrate the Welsh Government's commitment to investing in public transport, which is a vital way for many people, including some of the most vulnerable in our society, to access jobs and services."

Mr Williams said the services are a result of years of campaigning and pressure from supporters.

He added: "These new services are excellent news for the people of Mid Wales. Both lines provide a vital service for residents, commuters, tourists and students in the area.

"I am delighted the minister and Arriva Trains have been able to find a way to deliver these additional trains which I am sure will provide a significant boost to the Mid Wales and local economy."

"This is the result of years of discussions that we have had with the minister which resulted in the committee being tasked with proving the need for a more frequent service.

"We are delighted that our work has now resulted in developments for this important transport corridor which will mean so much to people, communities and economy of Mid Wales."

NEW jobs have been forecast following the merger of a long established Welshpool printing company and a successful direct mail specialist based in Shrewsbury.

Welshpool Printing Group Ltd, which has been based in Welshpool since 1960 and employs 49 staff, has merged with NRG Direct Mail, which has eight staff at Battlefield Enterprise Park, Shrewsbury. No jobs will go in the merger, which sees both bases retained and bosses said they want to take on more staff as the business grows.

The two companies have already been working together for a number of years.

Managing director of WPG, Paul Jones said: "The merger makes perfect sense as we are now able to offer a more efficient and integrated package of services comprising design, print, finishing and mailing."

The companies will continue trading as separate entities but because we both have a UK-wide client base, including many mutual customers, we see great potential to the expanded merged businesses.

It was a natural progression for WPG because a lot of our print jobs get delivered to mailing houses. Now we have brought the services together to extend our offer to customers. We aim to capitalise on the quality staff and great knowledge that we have within the companies.

The ultimate goal is to grow our joint turnover over the next five years, creating new employment opportunities along the way."

New restaurant opens doors



Paolo and Carolyn Lepone inside their new restaurant in Oswestry

A HISTORIC former church has been given a new lease of life - as a restaurant.

For while the lectern and the organ pipes still take pride of place in the old Presbyterian Church in Oswald Road in Oswestry the rest of the interior has been transformed into an Italian restaurant and coffee shop.

Lepone's restaurant has moved from its original home on Salop Road, bringing with it about 20 jobs. "We are opening as a coffee shop serving everything from coffee and Italian ice creams to lunches and snacks during the day time," said Paolo Lepone, who has run the business with his wife Carolyn for 12 years.

"In the evenings Lepone's becomes a cocktail bar and restaurant. We want to

provide somewhere that people are happy to come just for a drink, or for a meal, a taste of the Italian way of life for the people of Shropshire. That's why we created an outdoor seating area where people can sit and watch the world go by."

When the couple take on restoration projects they certainly do it in style.

About 10 years ago they completely restored Ardmillan House, the imposing home of Oswestry's wealthy businessman and civic dignitary John Thomas, turning it into their family home. "We fell in love with the Presbyterian church as soon as we stepped inside it," Mr Lepone said. "We were awarded a redundant buildings grant for the restaurant and are very proud of saving such an important building."

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

They should put up signs on the M54 warning night time motorists to avoid Shropshire and Mid Wales – that's how bad the situation has become.

Returning from another triumphant night watching Wolves at Molineux last Friday night turned out to be a nightmare journey, shared by thousands of other motorists, with the road closed in various locations. And all just to allow resurfacing to take place.

The problems started at the A41 junction for Whitchurch where drivers found themselves diverted off the dual carriageway via a network of country roads. It didn't help that my attempt at a short cut failed miserably, taking me back to the junction I had just left.

With that hurdle successfully negotiated any thoughts of a clear run were soon dispelled with the motorway closed again between Junction 5 at Telford and Junction 3 at Albrighton.

And with my companion now snoring happily in the passenger's seat it wasn't long before I was completely lost again, with my journey eventually taking 45 minutes longer than planned.

Now I'm told the work is due to go on until May 13, which means it will probably be June or July. What a great way to attract visitors to the areas and businesses of Shropshire and Mid Wales dependent on holiday makers and tourists simply to exist.

The only consolation was a 2-0 win over Derby County!

... How can Shropshire planners justify giving the go-ahead for a four-storey block of flats smacking in the middle of a popular housing area?

Even though hundreds of residents objected and local councillors strongly opposed the scheme Wrekin Housing Trust's plans to build a 53-apartment complex and eight bungalows on the former Oswestry Borough Council depot in Alexandra Road were approved by Shropshire Council's north planning committee.

No-one has any objections to the principle of the development it's the nature of the beast that's the problem with the block of flats set to tower over nearby properties.

I wonder how you or I would have got on with an application to build such a monstrosity in the middle of this housing area? Not a chance in hell I suspect.

... Give the organisers of Oswestry LitFest a round of applause for another massively successful event.

LitFest continues to grow, fired by an energetic and creative organising team, and is a fabulous celebration of the written, spoken and sung. It's also putting Oswestry firmly on the cultural agenda for thousands of people.



Councillor Keith Barrow says the county's two councils already work together closely enough



Telford and Wrekin Council leader Kuldeep Sahota says there would be no benefit from merging



Daniel Kawczynski, Tory MP for Shrewsbury and Atcham, wants to see one county authority

WORKING FOR YOU



Last week saw the Chancellor deliver his final budget before the election.

We are still a long way from fully repairing the financial mess that was inherited in 2010 when the country was borrowing £300,000 per minute.

I think it is important to cast our eye back on the difficult choices that the Chancellor has made and the effects that they have had.

Recent employment figures prove that these policies are getting Britain back on track.

There are now more people in work than ever before – 1.9 million more people in work since 2010.

Under Labour we saw 25 people lose their jobs every day, an incredibly depressing statistic.

However since 2010 we have seen a staggering 1,083 jobs created every day under this Government.

Britain grew faster than any other major advanced economy in 2014.

Growth has been balanced, with manufacturing growing 4.5 times faster than in the pre-crisis decade.

Most importantly we are seeing this job creation coming from the private sector, creating wealth rather than costing the tax payer dearly.

There have been five jobs created in the private sector for every one job lost in the public sector.

Shropshire residents are now starting to feel better off and there is more to come.

We have again cancelled Labour's planned fuel duty increase, due in September – delivering the longest duty freeze in 20 years.

It saves a typical family around £10 every time they fill up.

I hope that this legacy will be in people's minds when they head to the ballot box on May 7 but more than anything I want people to take part in this democratic process, regardless of their voting intentions.

Millions have laid down their lives so that we can retain the right to vote.

The last two decades have seen a huge drop in voter turnout and I believe that our political system has suffered from this apathy.

Voting is a valuable way of contributing to the country.

The option of having a postal vote makes voting in the election even easier.

So on Thursday, May 7, whoever you vote for, make sure that you have your say on how this country is run.

Owen Paterson
North Shropshire MP

Creating a super-council 'could save £14m a year'

What do council leaders think about calls to merge Shropshire with Telford?
MARK ANDREWS reports

MERGING Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils could save taxpayers across the county £14 million a year, an MP has claimed.

Daniel Kawczynski has called for a referendum on the issue, saying the money could be spent on libraries and other leisure services.

He also said a single "super county" authority would be in a stronger position to attract funding from both the Government and private sector.

However, the idea has been dismissed by Telford & Wrekin Council leader Kuldeep Sahota, who said the council was doing very well on its own and would not benefit from a merger with its neighbour.

Shropshire Council leader Keith Barrow also thought such a merger was unlikely.

Co-operation

He said: "I'm all in favour of closer co-operation between the two authorities, but I don't think there is a will to go anywhere beyond that."

Mr Kawczynski, Conservative MP for Shrewsbury, said: "Independent financial reports suggest that such a merger would save approximately £14 million per annum in running costs.

"That money could be ploughed back into libraries, leisure facilities and all the other important projects which Salopians require.

"At the very least it would be a very interesting and democratic procedure to allow Salopian people to decide for themselves whether or not they wish to have



Shropshire Council's headquarters are based at Shirehall in Shrewsbury

the two councils merge in order to bring about this level of efficiency savings.

"We are one county and ought to be doing everything possible to promote the whole county collectively to government to maximise investment."

He said a combined council would have more resources at its disposal, enabling it to bid for funding and market Shropshire in a more effective way.

He added: "By having two separate councils we are diminishing our ability to promote Shropshire as a whole in these perspectives."

Councillor Sahota, who leads Telford's Labour group, said there were many areas in which the two councils already worked together successfully, including policing, youth offending and adoption services.

But he said it would not benefit from merging with Shropshire Council.

He said: "There is absolutely no plan for us to merge with Shropshire or any other council."

"We have an economic growth rate almost 50 per cent above the national average, have halved youth unemployment, and offer great initiatives such as the Telford Loyalty Card and free swimming for over half our population."

Libraries

Councillor Sahota said the authority had also been able to keep all of its libraries open, was rebuilding or upgrading all of its secondary schools, and had huge investment going into its town centres, creating hundreds of jobs.

He added that the authority also had one of the lowest council tax levels in the West Midlands.

"Being part of a broader Shropshire

authority would mean, for example, parking charges being introduced in all our borough towns," said Councillor Sahota.

"Our hospital services would become more vulnerable."

"Telford & Wrekin has a very different economy, population with very different needs and challenges and most importantly very different opportunities compared with Shropshire."

Exploiting

"Opportunities that we are now exploiting that will benefit the borough, its residents and this council."

"Indeed, when Telford & Wrekin de-merged from Shropshire County Council and became a borough council, it was found that Telford was losing out in investment. In effect Telford was subsidising rural Shropshire."

"These very stark differences between the two councils only underline the many reasons why any idea of merger is, as long as we are here, simply not going to happen."

"Considering all this, I am not surprised that that Mr Kawczynski looks enviously at Telford & Wrekin as a solution to his and Shropshire Council's problems especially now with the success of Southwater and Telford & Wrekin winning the MOD Fulfilment Centre bid for Donnington, which will bring £60 million into local economy."

He added that the Conservative group leader on Telford & Wrekin council, Councillor Andrew Eade, had himself last year tabled a motion saying Telford was best served by having its own council.

● **What do you think? Do you agree that merging the two councils would be the best move for the county, or would you rather keep the authorities separate? Write to the Oswestry and Border Chronicle at the address on Page 2 or email news@oswestry-chronicle.co.uk**

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HOW DO I GO ABOUT REDUCING EMPLOYEES' HOURS FROM FULL TO PART TIME?

Q: I run a small engineering business. We have just had a big job put back and I am going to find it difficult to keep all the staff on until it comes back on line. However, if I could reduce the hours of a couple of them from full-time to part-time it may be possible. How should I go about doing this and how much notice do I need to give them?

A: You would need to change their contracts of employment, but to do this you would first need to get the agreement of the employees concerned. If you don't it would be a unilateral change and would constitute a breach of contract.

In the first instance you should call a meeting with the employees and explain your dilemma; i.e. you need to shorten their hours to part-time until the anticipated contract comes on line, or you will be left with no alternative but to consider redundancies. If they won't agree to going part-time then you should enter into a period of consultation with them, during which time you must consider any suggestions they might make to overcome the problem you face.

You must give valid business reasons as to why you need to make the changes. This will assist in protecting your position if the situation should go any further. Regarding how much notice you should give for any proposed changes to their contracts there is no minimum, though it will help relationships if you do give them some notice.

If your business is subject to an unavoidable ebb and flow of work you might wish to consider including the contractual right to temporary lay-off and short-time working in your terms and conditions of employment. However, these are not unrestricted rights and you should take advice from an employment lawyer.

Further information relating to this question is available from Nicholas Kennan, a Solicitor Advocate with GHP Legal.

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Letters

TORQUAY

Have your say on our EU membership

LIKE it or not, we all are now Europeans and this underlies our whole governance. Nobody who was under the voting age in 1975 has ever been consulted.

Since then, the EEC has metamorphosed from a simple common market into the much more demanding European Union we have now.

A fresh referendum as to whether the UK is to remain a member is well overdue.

All those parties refusing a referendum are hiding their heads in the sand, afraid the result won't go their way.

They forget that once a ballot date is set there will be abundant opportunity for

everybody to learn just what are the pros and cons of our staying in. Many voters will change their minds.

The outcome is unpredictable.

Nigel Farage and David Cameron, alone of the party leaders, have the courage to entrust the decision to the people – true democracy.

However, only Labour and Conservative can win the most seats in May's General Election.

Ironically, a vote for Ukip could well end in no referendum.

Logic dictates that Ukip-followers and others wanting the chance to say yes or no

to UK's further EU membership will need to vote Conservative this time, regardless of their wishes on independence.

Whatever the result of the referendum, the cloud of uncertainty will have lifted.

We will then either strive together towards a concerted Europe or be mapping out our course for a regained 'Land of Hope and Glory'.

The prospect of settling our relationship with our neighbours is at long last within our grasp.

Let's seize it!

RICHARD WATKINS
Craven Arms

Fixing the A&E issue is a major priority for the area

WIDESPREAD concern has been expressed with reference to the accident and emergency departments in hospitals not being able to cope with the demand and therefore missing the targets.

As we read the proposed solution from the Future Fit programme, it seems that they are following the fashion of correcting a problem of the ability to meet demand by cutting the number of A&E departments across Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire.

This problem is not just related to Shropshire but is common across the United Kingdom and the obvious way to correct the problem is to actually correct that problem before cutting the amount of provision.

It is also noted that those who actually make these decisions do not have to rely on public transport to reach the A&E departments when required and take into account that a large majority of the population cannot afford large taxi fares when other methods of public transport are not available. We therefore urge those making the decisions that we need an A&E department at both hospitals to save lives. Also to take into account the availability for people to be able to use these facilities when necessary and not limited by costs, and lack of public transport. Most of the need falls during the night when other medical services and transport are unavailable and in the case of the out of hours service members of the public still have to travel some great distances to reach the clinics.

The actual cutting of the number of accidents and emergencies facilities may, although giving a financial gain in the short-term, cause further costs by those who do not seek medical help when required and decide to wait and see if it gets better. A large number of the population still remember that in manufacturing industries it used to be said "if you get to Aachen alive you stand a good chance of living", we do not wish to return to these days.

ROBERT MURRAY
Sutton Hill

Pleased to see public backing the hunting rules

SENSIBLE people are proven to be living, unlike others, in the 21st century by campaigning for the retention and strengthening of the 2004 Hunting with Dogs Act.

One of the animals benefiting from this legislation is our iconic, but appallingly persecuted brown hare.

The brown hare is listed in a 2011 zoology report as one of our native species most at risk of extinction by 2050.

A third of hunts in England and Wales are hare hunts – nothing to do with foxes and repeat polls by the respected Ipsos Mori organisation show that now 88 per cent of people, both urban and country dwellers, are opposed to the primitive use of pack dogs to pursue to exhaustion and senselessly kill inoffensive hares just for human adrenal-fuelled entertainment.

The 2004 Act very importantly also outlaws the archaic activity of hare coursing, where two fast dogs are set after one poor hare in a so-called sporting "spectacle", often accompanied by betting on the dogs.

JOHN RIMINGTON
Hare Preservation Trust

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
Oswestry Chronicle,
Ketley,
Telford, TF1 5HU

EMAIL

letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Our friends in Commonwealth

I AM not anti-Europe as unity means strength. Yet we Britshers must never forget our debt to the good old British Commonwealth which evolved from the Empire. They stood behind us in 1939 when we stood alone against Hitler's Germany.

I can even see General Jan Christian Smuts of South Africa addressing cinema audiences around 1940 saying "look after yourselves". We are thankful too to America and Russia who entered a little later.

EMYD DAVIES
Wrexham

In what parallel universe does it make sense to expand a 70mph two-lane carriageway into three lanes on arrival at the roundabout, allowing no more than 30 yards beyond said roundabout for the traffic to realign to two lanes?

RICHARD BRETT

Bicton



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Village players line up for a team photograph



"Gobowen 1927-28" is written on the back of this photo which belonged to Tony Vail and was among his late wife Pat Vail's possessions. Her maiden name was Benbow and she was from Whittington originally. Mr Vail thought her father might be one of the players. The player at the back next to the man in a dog collar is Walter Humphreys, of Gobowen.

Horror show at A5 roundabout caused by layout

HAVING now had the dubious privilege of experiencing the revised layout of the Emstrey Island on the A5 several times I have to enquire as to whether the positioning of these lane markings was sponsored by a reality TV car crash production company or just dreamt up by somebody for whom the workings of the car is a complete mystery.

In what parallel universe does it make sense to expand a 70mph two-lane carriageway into three lanes on arrival at the roundabout, allowing no more than 30 yards beyond said roundabout for the traffic to realign to two lanes?

I watched with horror when the driver of a large, fast car decided to take the new third lane in order to attempt to overtake whilst negotiating the island only to arrive at the other side with nowhere to go, as his lane was then required to merge back in with the rest of the traffic. Can it really be beyond the wit of someone in authority to call for two lanes in, two lanes through and two lanes out?

RICHARD BRETT

Bicton

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NEWS IN BRIEF**Drug proceeds agreed by court**

A MAN from Llanfyllin made more than £2,700 from drug dealing, a court has decided.

Jack Oliver Warden was jailed in December of last year.

He was returned to Mold Crown Court from custody last week for a financial hearing under The Proceeds of Crime.

Judge Niclas Parry made an agreed order that his criminal benefit from drug dealing was £2,749 but that the available amount for confiscation was £330, the money seized on his arrest.

An earlier hearing was told that the defendant turned to drug dealing to finance his own habit.

Warden, 26, was said to be planning to leave Powys on his release and start life afresh in Cardiff – away from the environment where his offending occurred.

At Mold Crown Court on December 8, Warden admitted possessing cocaine with intent to supply, and previously offering to supply cocaine and cannabis.

Agency will be creating jobs

UP to 40 new jobs will be created across Shropshire as part of the expansion of a care home agency.

SureCare, which covers the whole of Shropshire, is in the course of creating the jobs to meet the current demand for its services, according to bosses.

The company, which has a base in Merrington, near Shrewsbury, has also claimed to be the first major care provider in the county to seek accreditation through the Living Wage Foundation for setting minimum payment rates for its employees to the National Living Wage of £7.85 per hour. Those interested in applying for roles should call 0800 024 6267.

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Knife angel should get city setting suggests MP

Report by Sue Austin

A DRAMATIC sculpture of an angel made from tens of thousands of knives confiscated by police or handed in during amnesties should sit on a plinth in Trafalgar Square when it is finished.

That is the view of North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson, who says he will urge London mayor Boris Johnson to allow the sculpture to sit on the 'fourth plinth' in the capital's most famous square.

Mr Paterson watched artist Alfie Bradley at work on the sculpture during a visit to the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry and saw some of the 20,000 knives that have been posted into special bins in cities including Manchester and Birmingham or given to the project by several police forces.

Mr Paterson said he was appalled at some of the weapons, including meat cleavers, ornamental swords, and large bush knives and by the number that were still covered in blood when they arrived at the centre.

He said: "I am staggered by what I have seen in this workshop. I had no idea of the scale of knife crime in Britain until now or of the type of weapons that are on our streets. This is appalling."

"The British Ironworks' Save a Life, Surrender a Knife campaign is a marvellous project, not only to create a new piece of art but in doing so to help take these knives out of circulation."

"This is a fantastic sculpture and deserves to sit on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square. I shall be talking to Boris to inform him of what is happening here in Shropshire and asking him to grant permission for it to be sited in the capital."



North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson looks at some of the weapons with sculptor Alfie Bradley

Bell ringers take part in king tribute

BELL ringers in Oswestry were today (Thursday) joining hundreds of others around the country to commemorate the laying to rest of King Richard III at Leicester Cathedral.

The ringers at St Oswald's Church, Oswestry, rang a quarter peal for 45 minutes to mark the significant royal occasion.

Thick leather muffs were fitted on one side of the bells' clappers.

The muffs help deaden the sound of alternate strokes and give a sound similar to an echo of the unmuffled stroke.

The remains of Richard III were discovered under a Leicester council car park in 2012.

He was due to be reinterred at Leicester Cathedral – 530 years after his death – in a service today.

The service was due to be led by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby.

The area around his tomb will be opened to the public on Saturday, organisers have said.

Richard III was the last Yorkist king of England.

His death at the age of 32 in the Battle of Bosworth effectively ended the Wars of the Roses.

Man charged over store incident

A MAN in his 20s has been charged and will appear in court in connection with an incident that happened outside a supermarket in Oswestry.

Zac Willsmer, 22, has been charged with a public order offence.

He is due to appear at Shrewsbury Magistrates Court on April 7.

Willsmer, of Laburnum Drive, Sainsbury's, was arrested following the incident, which took place outside Sainsbury's in Black Gate Street.



William Powell
Lib Dem AM for
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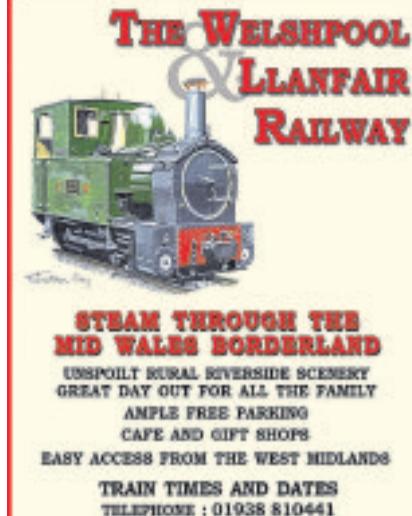
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Matthew Clements, Dominique Laundy, Charlotte Aldridge, Emily Williams and Abi Coleridge enjoy the cooking challenge



Pupils get some advice as they busily prepare their food

Pupils get cooking

WITH rolling pins and chopping boards at the ready, more than 30 students took part in a Let's Get Cooking Club cookathon as they tried to create the perfect curry.

Pupils from The Marches School in Oswestry took part in the event through their cooking club.

Armed with chicken biryani and naan bread recipes, students competed in their houses to create the winning dish.

Report by Pam Kingsley

Year seven student Jacob Munro said: "I've really enjoyed cooking biryani and naan breads as it's something I've never made before. I'm part of the Let's Get Cooking Club so was keen to get involved in the cookathon. I have learnt how to make things from scratch which is great." The cookathon has been held for the past five years and this year 33 students took part in the two and a half hour competition, along with eight members of staff and vol-

unteers. Anna Doggart, school governor and Let's Get Cooking Club coordinator, said: "A huge thank you has to go to our supporters, as without them, events like this would not be possible."

"The Dining Rooms, Treflach Farm, Woodforms Oswestry and Graig Farm of Newtown are greatly valued supporters of Let's Get Cooking Club at The Marches."

Let's Get Cooking is a national initiative to get children, their families and the wider community to learn and develop cooking skills.



Alice Wynn, Ella Fitton, Lucy McGlinchey and Sian Cooke enjoyed the cookathon at the Marches School in Oswestry

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So, where are we in 2015?

- A group of volunteer residents chaired by Nick Heard, known as the Three Parishes Big Local Partnership is responsible for delivering the Community Plan
- We have two workers - Bridget, our Big Local Co-ordinator and Andy, our Community & Youth Worker
- We have awarded £3265 in grants to 8 Community groups & projects since our Community Chest was launched in August 2014
- We have worked with FAIRshare Credit Union Ltd., to develop and launch weekly service points in each of the villages
- We are promoting a number of transport initiatives including 'Wheels 2 Work' and the Shropshire-wide car sharing scheme 'Shropshare'
- We held our first free activity sessions for young people in February half term. These were attended by over 80 young people who took part in street dance, hula hooping, geo-caching and cartoon drawing workshops

Three Parishes Big Local, the 10 year programme bringing £1m of Big Lottery Investment into the villages of Weston Rhyn, St Martins and Gobowen is celebrating

4 years of community involvement. A two part community consultation and research project started in Spring 2011 which, over time, was developed into our Community Plan and published in September 2014. We received the first part of the £1 million funding in September 2014 to start investing in the community.

You can find a copy of the Community Plan on our website, www.big-local.org or request one from the Big Local Co-ordinator.



BIG Grants Scheme

Who can apply for the Big Grants Scheme?

The Three Parishes BIG Grants Scheme is open to individuals and community organisations based within the area. If you are just forming as a group and don't yet have a bank account or constitution don't be put off. Talk with our Co-ordinator to see how Big Local can help to develop your idea. Applications from organisations outside the area need to clearly demonstrate how the benefit of funding will help the Three Parishes Big Local area. If you are not sure if your project will qualify for funding, please talk to our Co-ordinator.

Three Parishes

Big Grants

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Contact the Big Local Co-ordinator, Bridget: Write to: Qube, Oswald Road, Oswestry, SY11 1RB Tel: 01691 656882

Email: b.laraway@qube-oca.org.uk Check out our website : www.big-local.org

Follow us on twitter: 3PBigLocal Like our facebook page: 3PBigLocal

Our new Big Grants Scheme launches this week with £50,000 of funding available for larger community projects during the first 18 months of the scheme. The aim of the scheme is to support projects or activities, especially new or innovative projects, that require a grant of £501 or more and that work towards improving the Three Parishes Big Local Community, achieving our aspirations. The typical maximum grant value from this fund is £5000 although we would consider supporting higher value projects that would make a significant contribution to the community.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Celebrity farmer backing contest

TELEVISION presenter and farmer Jimmy Doherty, of 'Jimmy's Farm' fame, is supporting a competition for butchers to show their skills on the national stage.

For the first time butchers will have a chance to compete at WorldSkills UK this year, organised by Welshpool-based Cambrian Training Company. Regional heats will take place between April and July and the six top scoring butchers from across the UK will qualify for the final at The Skills Show, to be held at the NEC Birmingham from November 19 to 21.

Arwyn Watkins, Cambrian Training Company's managing director, said there are relatively few opportunities for butchers to enter competitions on the national stage.

Bin collections changes agreed

RECYCLING and rubbish collections across Powys will take place on bank holidays for the first time.

It follows a review of bank holiday working arrangements.

Collections that fall on a bank holiday will no longer be disrupted and will be collected as usual with the exception of Christmas and New Year. Over the Easter period collections will take place on residents' usual collection days.

County Councillor John Powell, cabinet member for environment and sustainability at Powys County Council, explained: "The council reviewed its working arrangements on bank holidays to make it easier for residents and also provide more efficient collections."

Geoffrey Seed, who worked on BBC Panorama and World in Action in the past, says he can not believe it has taken so long for the allegations he tried to uncover almost 20 years ago to be believed. The Convenience of Lies, which shot to the top of an international bestsellers' list, is a powerful story about a conspiracy between politicians, police and spies to cover up the sexual abuse of children.

Speaking from his home in Gwilsfield near Welshpool where he writes his novels, Mr Seed, 64, said: "I was first told about this affair by a group of detectives, aggrieved at being required to look the other way when the paedophiles in question were in positions of power.

"I didn't realise then that it would take another 18 years before the truth or otherwise of such crimes would finally be addressed."

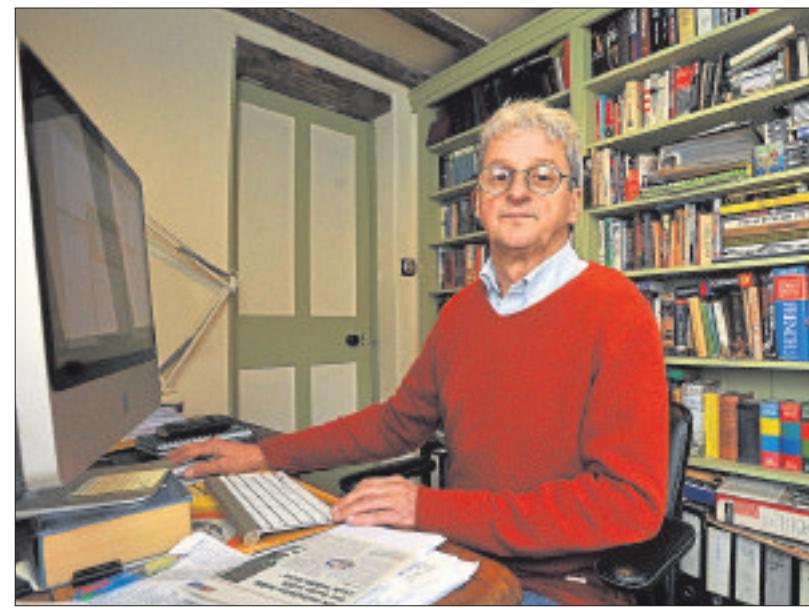
Mr Seed said that he hopes that the police officers would now be able to tell their story.

Report by Sue Austin

AN author says his best-selling novel, *The Convenience of Lies*, was based on interviews with detectives who were forced to cover up a paedophile ring in London.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is to investigate allegations of corruption in the Metropolitan Police in relation to child sex offences dating from the 1970s.

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Guilsfield author Geoffrey Seed says he was told of an alleged abuse cover-up almost 20 years ago

Members of store raid gang jailed

A GANG of four men who targeted Welshpool's Tesco store have been jailed.

Police stopped a Ford Focus containing the four men in the early hours on the A548 travelling towards Shrewsbury, a Mold Crown Court heard.

Inside were DVDs valued at £399 and two foil lined boxes.

It turned out that they had been stolen that evening, on January 7, from the Welshpool Tesco store.

Prosecuting barrister Karl Scholz said that one of the passengers had stolen DVDs and computer tablets to a value of £950 from the same store on December 18. Three brothers Constantine Novac, 26, Alexandru Novac, 27, Claudiu Novac, 29, and their brother in law Cristian Stan, 28, admitted theft on January 7 and Claudiu Novac admitted going equipped to steal with the foil boxes and the earlier theft in December.

Claudiu Novac received 14 months.

Constantine and Alexandru were jailed for nine months and Stan for eight months. The defendants, all from Coventry, had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing.

Coffee morning is set to be held

A COFFEE morning will be held in Welshpool tomorrow (Friday) to raise funds for a party which will mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War Two.

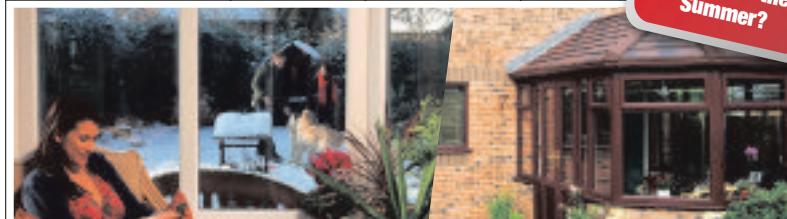
The event will be held at the Corn Exchange in the town hall in Broad Street from 9.30am.

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Crossings to close in improvement programme

MILLIONS of pounds will be spent closing up to eight level crossings in Mid Wales in a bid to improve safety and help the Cambrian railway line's train performance and punctuality.

The £7.5 million programme will see roads and farm tracks re-routed and three new bridges built over the track between Newtown and Machynlleth.

Welsh Assembly transport minister Edwina Hart said that £3 million had been allocated by the Welsh Government along with £4.5 million from Network Rail.

The project will include two kilometres of new highway works, two roads over rail bridges and one new river bridge.

The announcement comes as an improved timetable for the line has been unveiled, which will come into operation in May.

Angus Eickhoff, chairman of the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Rail Passengers Association, welcomed the project saying it would make the line much safer.

It is not yet known when work will begin.

Mr Eickhoff, from Moel y Garth, Welshpool, said: "We have welcomed this news as level crossings bring with them safety worries.

"Anything to make the rail line safer has to be welcomed.

"We understand that roads will be re-routed to link up with existing bridges across the railway. This has already happened at Forden, near Welshpool."

Mr Eickhoff said that he understood the level crossings may include one at Carno and another at Borth as well as smaller crossings for farms in the region.

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Report by Pam Kingsley

FIRE chiefs are calling on all new homes to come with sprinkler systems in a bid to save lives and reduce damage.

Speaking at the unveiling of a pilot project in Oswestry, Andy Blizard, the head of the service's fire safety team, called for sprinklers to be fitted in all new homes, particularly those occupied by the elderly and other vulnerable people.

"For many vulnerable people getting out of their home and away from a fire would be difficult, perhaps impossible.

"Even if they hear their smoke alarm it won't help them escape from a fire. Sprinklers can remove that danger because they will usually put a fire out and stop it spreading from room to room," Mr Blizard said.

The Oswestry project is a joint venture between Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service and Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing Association and is the first of its kind in the county. It will see a number of homes fitted with the sprinkler systems.

"This is the first of what we hope will be many more sprinkler projects involving social landlords, local authorities, developers and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service," he added.

"Our message is simple: sprinklers save lives and provide vulnerable people with very high levels of protection against fire. We would like to see them fitted in all new homes."

Sprinkler systems can also have a big impact on the amount of damage a fire can cause as they can stop a fire spreading from room to room and use less water than a conventional hose.

New visitor attraction is launched



The New Saints players Simon Spender and Aeron Edwards try out the new laser game area

STATE-OF-THE-ART military training equipment is being used in a new leisure attraction near Oswestry.

The former storeroom basement at The Venue in Oswestry, home of The New Saints Football Club, has been transformed into a new visitor attraction, called Black Hawk Laser.

The attraction offers laser tag gaming, perfect for parties, groups and individuals and organisers say it is perfect for team building exercises and corporate events as well as for people to play with others to improve confidence and self esteem. Two of the first people to give the new attraction a go were The New Saints players Simon Spender and Aeron Edwards. Zoe Farry, one of those behind the business, said the equipment was similar to that used by the army training for Afghanistan and Iraq. She said there were many benefits to the new attraction including no need for overalls and bulky safety equipment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cost of foreign care is revealed

FOREIGN patients are costing the hospital trust in Shropshire tens of thousands of pounds.

The trust which runs Shropshire's two main hospitals is owed more than £40,000 from foreign patients needing treatment in the region.

Although people from abroad are never refused emergency treatment, costs are not covered by the NHS.

For the five years from 2010 to 2015, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust is owed £43,410 by foreign patients from NHS treatment.

Neil Nisbet, finance director at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said: "We endeavour to do everything we can to recover money that it is owed for the treatment of foreign nationals who are not eligible for free care.

"For planned treatments, fees are usually paid in advance, but this is not always possible in emergency situations.

"In the 2013/14 financial year, £5,000 remained unrecovered from treating such cases."

Working farm for sale for £1.85m

A LARGE working farm has been put up for sale for £1.85 million.

The 215-acre working beef, sheep and arable farm at Pen y Coed Uchaf, Berriew, near Welshpool, is currently within a Glastir All Wales Entry contract until 2017, which provides environmental benefits and an additional source of income.

Lot one, at £1.4 million includes the farmhouse, a modern former dairy complex of farm buildings and 139 acres of land. Lot two offers 75 acres of productive pasture and woodland.

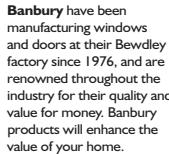
It is being marketed with agents Morris, Marshall and Poole.

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NEWS IN BRIEF**Cantiones will star at concert**

OSWESTRY-BASED choir Cantiones will perform a spring concert with the Borders Orchestra.

As a result of receiving sponsorship from Costa Coffee choir members have been able to gather a group of local musicians to perform with them at the concert in a performance of the Requiem Mass by Gabriel Faure.

It will take place in Holy Trinity Church on Saturday and also include sacred songs by Welsh composer Karl Jenkins and pieces by Mozart and Weelkes.

On April 18 Cantiones will repeat the concert at St Giles Parish Church in Wrexham with piano and organ accompaniment and will be joined by members of a French Choir, Choeur de Lux Aeterna.

The choir plans to take on a return visit to Normandy in 2016.

Tickets for each concert are £9 with under 16s free and are available from Rowthorn in Old Chapel Court, Oswestry Heritage Centre and by telephoning (01691) 238227.

College hosts festival launch

A COLLEGE was the chosen venue for the official launch of this year's third Whittington International Chamber Music Festival.

Ellesmere College was the chosen venue following last year's collaboration when four music scholars from Ellesmere performed alongside one of the UK's leading ensembles 'Ignite' at the festival.

Four of the 10 world-class musicians who will take centre stage at the event, which will be held on the May 12-17, spent a day at the school, working alongside students from the Lower Sixth on conducting, producing and performance suggestions.

Report by Pam Kingsley

A PRIMARY school has donated a lifesaving piece of equipment to its local community as the final part of a Shock For Life campaign it has been running over the past year.

Morda Church of England Primary School has presented an automated external defibrillator, or AED, to representatives of Oswestry Rural Parish Council.

Anna Griggs, Shock for Life campaign director, said: "We are absolutely delighted with the efforts the pupils, friends and the wider community have made during our campaign. It has meant that we have exceeded our wildest hopes in providing these potentially life saving machines in Morda."

The Shock for Life Appeal was started in May with the aim of providing an AED in the school and, should funds permit, helping the parish council to place machines in each of the larger communities around Oswestry. Thanks to the help of the charity SADS UK, local businesses, friends of Morda School and the efforts of the pupils of the school, the appeal has been able to fund two life-saving machines, one of which will be available to the West Midlands Ambulance Service and the community in the event of a medical emergency on a 24/7 basis.

John Eglin, headteacher at Morda Primary School, said: "This campaign has captured the imagination of the whole school community. As a result the fundraising team's initial objective has been exceeded so that not only the school but the whole of Morda will now have access to a defibrillator."



Pupils Ieuan Young and Evie Lawrence, Anna Griggs, and Councillor Paul Milner with the new defibrillator

Bunting idea scrutinised by councillors

PLANS to spend £10,000 on bunting to decorate a town centre have been criticised by councillors.

The pot of money was awarded to Oswestry Chamber of Commerce from the Government as part of the "Portas initiative".

High Street guru Mary Portas led a national project to see how ailing towns could be revived, which resulted in the grants for several places including Oswestry.

A public consultation was held about how the money, which has to be used by April, should be spent.

Following this, the chamber wrote to Oswestry Town Council asking for help in facilitating the provision of bunting in the town over the next three years, which would use up the £10,000. But at its meeting last week, Oswestry Town Council said it was not happy with idea of spending all the funds on bunting.

Instead councillors voted to service the request for one year only, to purchase and put up the bunting for 2015 at a cost of £2,000.

Town clerk David Preston said: "We will ask the chamber to go back to members to look at how the remaining £8,000 could be spent."

Election hustings will be staged

AN election hustings will be held in Oswestry two weeks before the general election with all five candidates for North Shropshire taking part.

The hustings has been organised by Churches Together in Oswestry District and will take place on April 28 in the Methodist Church Hall, Castle Street, at 7.30pm.

It will be chaired by Rev Simon Thorburn, vicar of St Oswald's Parish Church.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Scam warning given by council

RESIDENTS in Mid Wales are being warned of a scam which has hit the region.

The scam has seen fraudsters claim they are a medical professional to con people out of their money.

Powys County Council's Trading Standards Service has issued the warning so that residents do not become victims to this scam by handing over their money.

The latest scam sees residents being contacted by telephone by a person claiming to be a doctor or medical professional and the caller will appear to have details of their medical history.

Residents are then offered tablets for medical conditions at a cost of around £300.

The council is now urging residents not to disclose any personal details, including bank details, over the telephone.

Councillor John Powell, cabinet member for Trading Standards, said: "Fraudsters are 'cold calling' residents purely to obtain money by deception."

Event will be held to aid church

GUITAR vocalist Alan Herbert will perform at Marton Village Hall near Welshpool on April 17.

The event will be held to raise money for Trelystan Church.

Featured in the book Entertaining Mid Wales & Beyond, Alan has recently returned from working in Bognor Regis, Devon, Stowmarket and Worcester.

Tickets for the evening are £10 in advance which includes supper.

Tickets for the event can be obtained from church officials, Welshpool Jewellers, or Laura Yapp on (01938) 561261.

Flooding fear holds up village housing proposal

Report by Sue Austin

SEWAGE problems in a village must be resolved before a new 50-home housing estate is built, councillors have ruled.

Plans to build the homes on land next to Aspen Grange in Weston Rhyn, near Oswestry, will be refused unless fears over potential flooding in the area can be allayed.

Members of Shropshire Council's north planning committee said they were minded to refuse the plans. Those living in the adjoining Aspen Grange development say they already have to put up with flooding and sewage in their homes and fear that more houses with make the problems worse.

Council officers had suggested conditions that temporary measures to deal with the water problem be put in for the development and then move to a permanent solution. But after councillors said they were minded to refuse permission officers will now have to return to a future meeting of the committee with reasons for refusal.

Councillor David Lloyd, who represents Gobowen, Selattyn and Weston Rhyn, said that at first glance this seemed an ideal site for housing, close to the village centre.

"But with the spectre of flooding hanging over this area this is a different matter entirely," he said. Robert Davies, agent for developers M Richardson & Partners, said that the problems at Aspen Grange were completely unconnected with the proposed housing site. "The farmer that rents this land has no problem with standing water and grazes sheep there throughout the winter. In fact the development at this site is likely to improve the situation for residents at Aspen Grange," he said.

School praised for its poppy efforts



Ted Larkin of the Royal British Legion with Woodside School pupils Tommy Bromage and Maggie Morris

YOUNGSTERS have been thanked after raising more than £900 for the Royal British Legion through the annual poppy appeal.

Pupils at Woodside Junior School in Oswestry bought eight boxes worth of poppies in the run up to last year's Remembrance Sunday, collecting £904.32.

RBL Oswestry president Ted Larkins BEM visited the school to present the children with a certificate and thank them personally for their efforts.

Branch chairman David Cooper said: "We have just completed an audit of the 2014 Poppy Appeal collection and Woodside Junior School

has turned in what is the best ever school collection and in the process has sold the contents of eight school boxes of poppies.

"It is a most memorable achievement by the children of Woodside and we are immensely grateful to them, their parents and the teachers at the school, for their support."

Defendants sentenced for town violence

SIX men have been sentenced after a court was told about three separate violent incidents in Welshpool.

Patrick Stokes, 26, of Leighton Arches, Welshpool, who pleaded guilty to common assault, affray and carrying a spade without lawful excuse in a public place, was jailed for four months.

John Gallagher, 21, of Leighton Arches and Serafina Pincherio, 19, from Long Mountain, Welshpool admitted threatening unlawful violence and common assault and were each given an eight month suspended prison sentence and ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work.

Three members of the same family from Leighton Arches received suspended sentences and two month electronic tagging curfews.

John Power, 18, who admitted threatening unlawful violence was given a five-month suspended prison sentence; Jason Power, 21, who admitted threatening unlawful violence and common assault, received an eight month suspended term, and David Power, 25, who pleaded guilty to affray and carrying an offensive hammer in a public place, received a four month suspended prison sentence.

Prosecutor Paulinus Barnes said on December 15 five of the men, excluding Stokes, attacked a man at the Angel public house.

Later that night another man went into a kebab shop where he was attacked by the group.

In the final incident the following Sunday afternoon, David Power and Stokes had arrived in a white van outside the Pinewood pub and a confrontation broke out with customers outside the pub.

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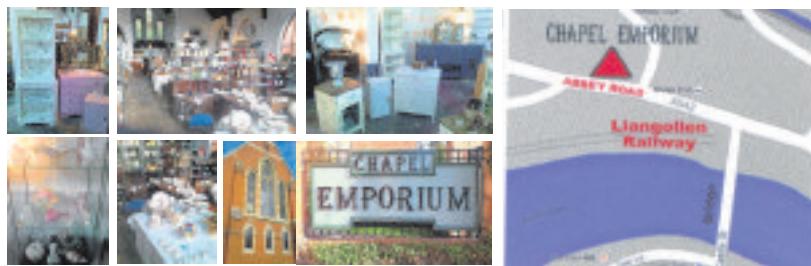
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Town has something for every one of its visitors

Advertising Feature

RENNED for its surrounding hills, the River Dee and as the base for one of the leading cultural events in the world, Llangollen has something for every visitor.

Thousands of visitors flock to the town throughout the year to enjoy Llangollen's range of cafes, bars, hotels, restaurants, guest houses, B&Bs, cottages and campsites to suit every pocket.

Llangollen also has a wealth of independent shops to browse and interesting places to visit.

Visitors can enjoy taking a stroll along the Victoria Promenade, have a picnic in the Riverside Park or watch the river tumble down beneath the town's landmark bridge. For the more energetic there is a whole range of outdoor activities.

Other visitors enjoy a steam train trip on Llangollen Railway or experience the peace and tranquillity of the Llangollen Canal by enjoining a trip on a horse drawn canal boat.

Llangollen is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site along eleven miles of canal from Gledrid to the Horseshoe Falls via the spectacular Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

In the summer Llangollen's streets become a river of colour as visitors pack into the town to enjoy the International Music Eisteddfod. The event attracts choirs and performers from throughout the world and headline acts in the past have included performances from acts as diverse as Luciano Pavarotti and Status Quo.

The Eisteddfod has been held in Llangollen since 1947. Each year around 4,000 performers and as many as 50,000 visitors converge on the small Welsh town to sing and dance in a unique combination of competition, performance, and international friendship.

Emporium has great choice



Chapel Emporium has more than 20 different stalls

CHAPEL Emporium in Abbey Road, Llangollen, was the idea of Pete and Jean Ashby and first opened its doors in October 2014.

and each one is unique to the people who rent the space.

Peter and Jan Ashby also have a lovely selection of quality painted and shabby chic furniture which has been lovingly transformed in their on-site workshop, and this is proving to be a very popular part of the business.

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Hotel offers all guests a fantastic experience

Advertising Feature

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The hotel offers excellent accommodation with 46 bedrooms and superior rooms and suites are available with disabled access. The Wild Pheasant is an excellent base for holidays in North Wales, an efficient conference venue, a gorgeous venue for weddings and offers a wide choice of dining experiences in the Yew Tree Restaurant, open seven days a week.

The hotel boasts a courtyard area with free WiFi and has four meeting rooms with a capacity to hold 200 people. The hotel is licensed for civil wedding and civil partnership ceremonies and has its own designated wedding planner.

Impressions Spa and Hairdressing Salon offers an extensive range of spa treatments and spa pamper packages as well as a hairdressing salon.

The Wild Pheasant is an ideal location for a wide range of country leisure activities including archery, laser clay pigeon shooting, golf, fishing, mountain biking, hill walking, canoeing, white water, river rafting, horse riding and off road driving.

Whatever the reason for your visit The Wild Pheasant will strive to ensure that it exceeds your expectations.



The Wild Pheasant Hotel offers an array of excellent services

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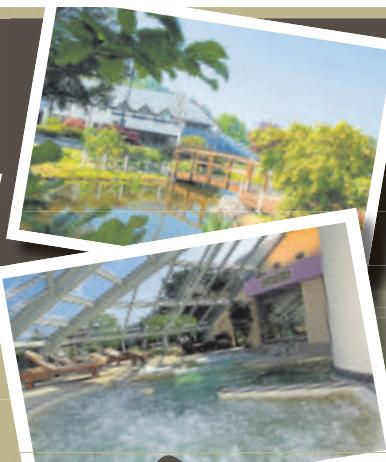
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A Cornish holiday is ideal for the family

CORNWALL – such a long way away but well worth the visit each and every time. When the weather is good, as it was for my family's visit, there is no better place to holiday, writes Mark Shipp.

After so long on the road, it is so good to relax and get away from it all, and that is exactly what we were able to do at Trevella Holiday Park on the north Cornish coast.

The award-winning five-star caravan and campsite is in Crantock, ideally located near the town's beach and just three miles away from Newquay.

Major attractions like the famous Fistral beach, a surfers' paradise, Minack Theatre, Lost Gardens of Heligan and the Eden Project are a short drive away, not forgetting the coastal resorts of St Ives, Padstow and Falmouth. We even took in Land's End during our visit. But even when not travelling around to see the sights and sounds of the beautiful county, Trevella itself has such a lot to offer.

Our superior caravan, complete with decking to allow occupants to sit around and socialise, could accommodate up to eight people. It overlooked the playground, which not only proved popular with the younger holidaymakers, but also allowed for a kick-around or a picnic.

There is a heated outdoor pool that again proved a well-used attraction. Add to that a games room, with pool table and arcade machines and a crazy golf course and it means there is always something to do on-site, and in turn creating the perfect family holiday destination.

Visitors are also well-served for provisions with an on-site shop and cafe.

Trevella is in a secluded spot away from the main road, but for me that only adds to its attraction as one can avoid the hustle and bustle and noise of major holiday camps.

And, with so much to see and do on the doorstep, it couldn't be more ideally placed - and reasonably priced. But whatever one's preferred accommodation, Trevella has it covered, with two lodges also available for that extra luxury.

Visit www.trevella.co.uk or call 01637 830 308 to check availability.

Top advice for travelling far and wide

TRAVELLING anywhere else in the world – whether on holiday or for business – without proper health advice and vaccination cover, can expose travellers to a variety of health risks – from trivial to the deadly serious.

Any illness contracted abroad – from a mysterious virus to a seemingly innocent insect bite, can potentially cause major health problems and worse, could take a long time to recover from, which is bad news if you have family depending on your income or you are the main wage earner.

And if you are an employer, it might be a good idea to remind all employees planning a trip this year – holiday makers as well as business travellers – of the benefits of getting good travel health advice and having the right vaccinations for their country of destination.

MOHS Workplace Health, an occupational health and wellbeing provider, runs a travel health and vaccination centre from its premises in Birmingham Road, West Bromwich.

The centre is open to both business travellers and the general public, but all visits have to be booked in advance.

For more information, please call 0121 601 4041, email info@mohs.co.uk or visit mohs.co.uk



Enjoy breath-taking tours of the slopes



There is a lively social scene in the area



The slopes were in perfect condition

Ideal time to escape into the Alpine air

A FEW steady days of snow dumps before my arrival provided time for the resort team to get the pistes groomed and in perfect condition with every lift open, writes John Corser.

HOLIDAYS

With John Corser

views of The Alps and in the perfect conditions we were able to cover a huge area, finishing up in Val Claret.

In the afternoon the highlight was watching one of our party try out the newly-opened bungee ski jump, located off the Lac blue run above Tignes Le Lac.

It was great fun to see him speed down the ramp before taking to the air on the bungee cord and finishing his descent safely on a zip wire.

For the final day we enjoyed cruising the blue and red runs around Toviere and la Daille, taking a leisurely lunch at the mountain restaurant at Toviere.

We resumed on the Creux blue and some others before taking an afternoon break to sample the delights of Folie Deuce on the side of the Verte run above La Daille. With booming dance music crashing out of the giant sound systems, singers, dancers and musicians encourage revellers – some prepared to pay 200 euros for a bottle of champagne – to join them in dancing on the tables in their ski boots.

If you are skiing on the Val D'Isere side of the ski area you need to ensure you catch the Tommeuses chairlift before it closes to ensure you can get back to Tignes, otherwise you face getting an expensive taxi back. We finished our hugely enjoyable three days with an exhilarating final run down the Henri blue into Val Claret.

We got the chance to try out Inghams' new bar Ti Bar at the Chalet Hotel Le Curling which offers a relaxing place to enjoy a bit of après ski.

There is a lively scene in Tignes, with plenty of bars and night clubs to try out. If you don't want to party too hard there are many quieter restaurants to enjoy also. Tignes offer plenty of other activities during a stay in the resort, including Le Lagon offering a 25-metre swimming pool, wellness centre with hot tubs and Turkish bath and a fitness centre.



You can try your hand at a wide range of activities on offer for visitors

Reaching for the skies at superb heritage centre

THE grin was from ear to ear and the excitement was building as my son Daniel pulled back on the controls to fly a Spitfire through the Tower Bridge, writes Lisa Bailey.

He was sitting in the cockpit of a Spitfire simulator at Maidenhead Heritage Centre.

Under the expert guidance of the centre's chairman Richard Poad, a retired pilot, Daniel flew past Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, looped the loop and the list goes on. How many eight-year-olds can say they have done that?

The simulator is part of an exhibition called Grandma Flew Spitfires and pays homage to the achievements of air transport auxiliary.

The Air Transport Auxiliary Exhibition and Archive tells an incredible story of the amateur pilots, both men and women, who flew war planes between factories and front line squadrons.

The centre owns one of the largest collections of ATA



Windsor Castle is a must see on a visit to the area

memorabilia and records anywhere in the world.

Downstairs at the centre, exhibitions date from before the Romans to racing cars, aeroplanes, Hammer Horror

films and scandals at Cliveden. The section on the Romans included a 1,650-year-old skeleton, which was found in the ground between Monkey Island and Oakley Court during an excavation in the 1970s.

We were staying just a mile away at Fredrick's Hotel Restaurant and Spa which was an ideal base for the local patch. We stayed in the Berkshire Suite, which was luxurious and huge.

A visit to the area is not complete without a fantastic few hours at Windsor Castle. It caters for the younger audience extremely well. The history of the castle is brought to life with the help of audio tours and a special one for children. Youngsters can colour and dress up in the Moat Room and staff also reveal a few interesting facts about the castle, for example if you look at Henry VIII's armour, from the side it's clear to see how large he was with a 52inch waist.

The guards in their full-dress uniform of red tunics and bearskins are an impressive sight.

Any tips for days out, holidays or places to visit? Email your ideas to lisa.bailey@shropshirestar.co.uk



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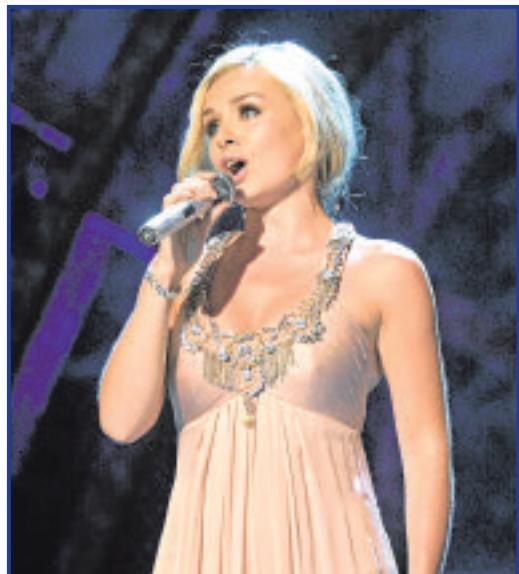
Picture focus



Events co-ordinator Sue McEvoy plans for the Eisteddfod for months



World famous star Luciano Pavarotti has appeared at the Eisteddfod



Katherine Jenkins has entertained the Eisteddfod audience



Bryn Terfel is one of many major stars to have graced the Llangollen Eisteddfod stage thanks to the hard work of all the staff

Organisers are getting ready for the big show

Report by Sue Austin

MONTHS before the curtain goes up on this year's Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, a dedicated team of backroom staff are already well ahead with preparations to ensure the great festival goes as smoothly as ever.

And getting an early start on the myriad arrangements is always absolutely vital to the success of the event according to Eisteddfod company secretary Sian Eagar.

Sian, now in her third year in the post, said: "There's quite a long planning process so that we can secure all the competitors from around the world for the week of the Eisteddfod and put together a programme of concerts which will have the widest possible appeal to our visitors, and naturally all this takes time to arrange.

"We're thinking about the next one almost as soon as one year's festival is finished in July and we start getting down to actual detailed planning from September or October onwards."

The Eisteddfod has just six paid employees based at its headquarters in the Royal International Pavilion and, assisted by a small number of volunteers, they have all been hard at work on arrangements for Llangollen 2015 since the autumn.

One of the most important roles is that of events co-ordinator, a job done by Sue McEvoy since 2011. Sue and fellow events team members Christie Gerrard and Peter Budd have a range of important tasks, from ensuring a broad and varied selection of entrants in the

famous choral and dance competitions to the detailed planning of when and where they will take to the famous pavilion stage once they arrive for this year's festival, which takes place from July 7-12.

Sue said: "I actually started work on detailed planning for this year as long ago as September, contacting likely choral and dance competitors from the UK and around the world.

"A total of 109 choirs and dance groups will be competing this year, including 62 from the UK and 47 from countries including China, Australia and the USA."

Meanwhile, on the other side of the eisteddfod office at the pavilion, pressing ahead with the gargantuan job of ensuring that everyone visiting the festival has the correct tickets to hand when they turn up at the field is long-time Llangollen volunteer Keith Potts.

Keith, who lives in the town, has been helping out at the eisteddfod since he was a little lad of four and for the past decade or so has held the highly responsible position as chairman of the tickets committee.

He said: "I usually start making the preparations in November and at the moment I am in the process of sending out letters to all our season ticket holders and Friends of the Eisteddfod.

"I'll eventually send out about 1,000 of these, which takes myself and a few helpers about three days of work."

"I've also been making sure that our box office computer system is set up and ready to go, which I'm pleased to say it is."



Secretary Sian Eagar and chairman Gethin Davies at the Eisteddfod pavilion



Alfie Boe is an Eisteddfod favourite



Keith Potts works hard to ensure the success of the Eisteddfod



CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094

Windows now open for grant schemes

WINDOWS for applications are now open for two grant schemes which could prove to be of great benefit to Shropshire farmers, a rural surveyor from the county has announced.

Victoria Pocock, of national property and rural estates firm Carter Jonas, said that the new Countryside Productivity Scheme and the Countryside Stewardship Water Capital Grants can now be tapped into by farmers and landowners across Shropshire.

The Countryside Productivity Scheme, which is a brand new scheme, has been introduced by the Government to help boost innovation in the sector.

"It is open to all farmers and will be a welcome boost to some whose technology is out of date," said Mrs Pocock, who is based in the Shrewsbury office of Carter Jonas.

"The Government has pledged millions of pounds to the scheme which has been set up to help farmers access the best new technology and invest in improved infrastructure. Farmers, land managers and foresters are being invited to apply for the grants. This includes small grants, worth up to £35,000 per business, and larger sums of up to £1 million."

Mrs Pocock also identified the Water Capital Grant, another Government scheme that is part of the Catchment Sensitive Farming project, as being potentially very useful for farmers and land owners in the county.

The scheme – which has been introduced to help reduce water pollution – is available in river catchment areas such as the Teme, Cound, Rea, Roden, Perry, Ter, Worfe, Meres and Mosses waterways.

"Capital grants of up to £10,000 per holding can be applied for, though the current application window closes on April 30," said Mrs Pocock.

"Grants will be assessed on a competitive basis with other applications and will only be available in Catchment Sensitive Farming priority target areas only."

Poultry houses investment to hit £3.75m

SIX new poultry houses are to be built in south Shropshire in a £3.75 million investment for the farming industry.

The new broiler units are being established by two local farmers, one expanding an existing enterprise while the other is new to poultry production.

Planning consent for the two new sites was secured by planning consultants at Berrys who worked closely with the individual farmers and councils to ensure permission was obtained with minimum hassle.

"Communication is key to a successful planning application and we were keen to engage with the local community and council at all stages," said Stuart Thomas, Berrys' head of planning who is based at the Shrewsbury office.

"This is a £3.75 million investment for south Shropshire and will bring employment for local people for years to come as well as sustaining the longer-term future of the farming businesses."

The planning permission was achieved at the end of last year for Steven Povall at Corfton Farm, Craven Arms and Peter Jones at Wistanstow.

Started

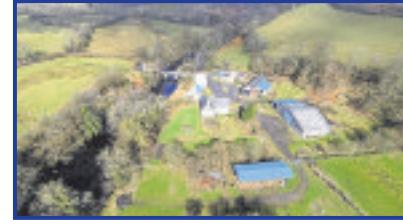
Work has already started on one of the sites, at Corfton, and Peter Jones will add two more units to his poultry site in the spring.

"Consumer demand for poultry meat continues to increase and farmers in the region are keen to be part of this growing sector," said Stuart.

"Berrys has a proven track record in obtaining planning consent for poultry sites and we could not be more delighted in the successful outcome of these planning applications in south Shropshire," he said.

"Securing planning permission for poultry units can be a challenge but we pay careful attention to detail to ensure every box is ticked before an application is made."

Livestock farm goes on the market



The farm is on the market for £650,000

A residential livestock farm suitable for improvement is on the market near Welshpool for £650,000.

The Plas at Dolanog comprises a five-bedroom Grade II Listed farmhouse, traditional and modern farm buildings, plus 54.58 acres of pasture land and woodland plus and 22 acres of freehold land on Alt Dolanog.

The property is available as a whole or in lots as required, and is being marketed by Berrys.

"The property is an idyllic situation to the north of the rural village of Dolanog, surrounded by extensive

rural scenery and open countryside," said Sarah Reece who is handling the sale at the firm's Shrewsbury office.

"Post war, Dolanog was a centre for forestry workers and now offers tranquil rural living within easy distance from the busy market town of Welshpool, which has railway links to Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth, and the coastal towns of Abersoch and Aberdovey are not too far away."

The land includes 54.58 acres (22.09ha) of permanent pasture land arranged in five principal enclo-

sures and woodland. A further 22.00 acres (8.90ha) of freehold land at Alt Dolanog Common, which lies to the east of The Plas, are also included in the sale.

The purchaser will be offered a further 13.40 acres (5.42ha) of land on a Farm Business Tenancy Agreement. Further details are available from the selling agent.

The Plas may only be viewed by appointment with Berrys, by calling 01743 271697 or e-mailing shrewsbury@berrybros.com

A change of career for police IT specialist

FARMING LATEST

By Thom Kennedy

A former police IT director has swapped his mouse for chickens after returning to his family farm to launch a poultry operation.

Bentley Growers has been established on Bentley Farm in Noneley, near Shrewsbury, by former Cheshire Police IT director Neil Brown.

The 90-acre site has undergone £1,600,000 investment, supported by Barclays, creating two poultry houses using the latest design and technology, capable of housing 83,000 chicks and producing seven crops per annum.

The business has already secured a contract with Moy Park, one of the largest chicken producers in the UK.

Mr Brown, a company director, said: "My family have been at Bentley Farm since after the war but when my father passed away in 2009 I inherited some of the land."

"Despite coming from a farming family, I never thought I would work in agriculture, especially as I had a well-established career in IT and my wife, Caroline, was originally a 'towny'."

"However after we were left the land, the idea began to take root and, after much research and preparation, we finally decided to give it a go."

He added: "I'd like to think I am a positive example of how a small farm can survive and thrive by investing into a growth sector, as demand for locally-sourced chicken continues to rise."

"We have already invested into biomass boilers to heat the poultry houses and we are exploring the potential of placing solar panels on the houses to further reduce our carbon footprint."

"It is early days, but our first two crops have exceeded expectations with Moy Park, and our initial success has given us a good, early placing in their performance league



Neil Brown with Barclays agricultural manager Kate Evans outside the new poultry houses

table, showing that small, local farms still have a future in the industry and valued place in the local rural community."

Kate Evans, Barclays Business agricultural manager, added: "Barclays Agriculture is committed to using our industry expertise and specialists to support such propositions, which are

vital to a prosperous rural economy."

"By working closely with our customer Barclays has been able to provide innovative solutions to support Neil both financially and professionally. Neil has been able to use his IT skills from his previous career and adapt them into his poultry business."

"He has spreadsheets and IT software

informing him daily or hourly on animal weights, amount of feed taken, air temperature and a range of other key performance indicators to support his business."

"Investment in the new units demonstrates both Barclays Agriculture and Neil's confidence in the growth and success of the business."

Double delight for farm machinery dealership

A FARM machinery dealership in Shropshire had a double reason to celebrate after welcoming more than 1,000 guests to its annual open day in the county.

Rea Valley Tractors was also presented with a surprise award from the John Deere marque which it represents.

John Deere's agricultural division sales manager Joedy Ibbotson awarded the team across all four depots with certificates of excellence.

The awards were for product specialism in combines, self-propelled forage harvesters and sprayers.

The award, which recognises best practice in these highly complex machines, was presented at RVT's Shrewsbury depot during the open day at the same location.

To achieve this accolade RVT staff have reached a num-



Rea Valley Tractors got a certificate of excellence

ber of goals including specialist training, demonstrations and an excellent customer care process.

It comes in the same month as two of Rea Valley's tech-

nicians graduated in this year's John Deere Ag Tech advanced apprenticeship.

Third year students Richard Jones at Shrewsbury depot and David Leah from the Newport depot received their certificates at the John Deere Forum visitor centre in Mannheim, Germany during a specially arranged visit to the company's tractor and cab factories and European Parts Distribution Centre.

Customers who visited the dealership's open day had the opportunity to talk to the teams in sales service and parts as well as the many manufacturers who were present including John Deere, JCB, Vaderstad, Joskin, Gregoire Besson, Bailey Trailers and Amazone.

One customer walked away with a brand new John Deere lawnmower in a prize draw which raised more than £450 for Midlands Air Ambulance.

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The Clearance Depot on Vastre Industrial Estate in Newtown is the original clearance depot in the town.

Furniture is direct from the manufacturers.

The Clearance Depot also has fantastic cash deals on three-piece suites,

Advertising Feature

corner suites, mattresses, and so much more.

Michael Kinsey has been in business for 50 years.

Mr Kinsey knows the business inside and out.

The Clearance Depot offers exceptional service with full satisfaction and quality guaranteed.

At The Clearance Depot there is an immediate delivery service available

on all showroom items if required. Mr Kinsey from the firm says he will not be beaten on price.

The Clearance Depot is open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

With such a wide range of furniture being available, The Clearance Depot is definitely worth a visit.

The Clearance Depot can be found on the Vastre Industrial Estate in Newtown, SY16 1DZ.

For more information about the service, The Clearance Depot offers, contact (01686) 622954.



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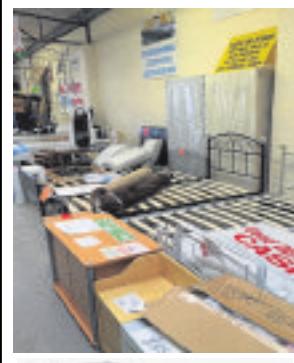
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Show attracts massive crowds every summer

OSWESTRY Show, one of the leading one-day agricultural shows in the country, is held annually on the first Saturday in August on the 37-acre Park Hall Showground on the outskirts of the historical town of Oswestry.

The event attracts crowds of approximately 15,000 from both sides of the English/Welsh border.

Preparations for the 2015 show are well underway and organisers say they are looking forward to welcoming everyone to the event which this year takes place on August 1.

The show could not be as successful without the incredible support from all the event's trade stands, exhibitors, judges, stewards, sponsors, entertainment, helpers, volunteers and all the local businesses who provide their services on the day.

The amazing array of attractions on show at the event has also been key to its long-lasting success.

Each year the event endeavours to offer something new to the thousands of people who come through the gates.

A huge variety of attractions are always on show.

Last year for example during a packed programme of events the audience was treated to the return of the Imps Motorcycle Display Team, a young team of riders ranging from five to sixteen who carry out daredevil jumps and routines.

Neptune Collonges, winner of the 2012 Grand National, led the new class "Racehorse to Riding Horse" exhibitors into the ring to be judged.



Thousands of people attend Oswestry Show every year

Returning again last year was the Tanatside Hunt who circled the arena and then invited youngsters into the ring to meet the hounds.

Other attractions included a mounted games competition, a sheep shearing contest and there was a host of activities staged at the show's Village Green area.

Visitors to the Village Green were able to enjoy the sounds of the Brownfield Byrne Hot 6 who played sets

throughout the day. Border Counties School of Gymnastics and Hoola Nation also showcased their work along with Megafit, Insanity, M D Warriors and Sheridan the robotic dog.

The New Saints Football Club and its Community Foundation made their first appearance on the Village Green during last year's show.

For information about this year's show visit www.oswestryshow.co.uk or contact (01691) 654875.

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OSWESTRY SHOWGROUND

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From antiques to big trucks, from cattle to music,

The Showground is a fantastic venue.
Catering & disabled facilities, ideal for conferences, parties, weddings and all outdoor festivals and events.

For further details contact 01691 654771
E mail: sue@oswestryshow.co.uk

Business has a great reputation for service

BILL Smith, owner of **Fascias Guttering, Windows and Doors**, based at Maesbury Road Industrial Estate opposite Tudor Griffiths in Oswestry has built up a strong reputation in more than 15 years of business.

Bill said: "Our reputation for excellent and friendly service has always kept us busy over the years.

"We still do lots of fascias and guttering while our windows and doors have always been popular, particularly with the trade. Many of the local tradespeople do come here to purchase UPVC products. There is a wide selection and various styles to choose from including UPVC doors and windows as well as composite doors. We have been trading for years and we are always looking to offer new things. For example we have recently started fitting look-a-like slate roofs for conservatories. The benefits of these roofs is that you can use your conservatory all year around because they keep the temperature down in the summer and retain the heat in the winter, making this a room you can use all year round. To replace the roof we remove the old polycarbonate roof and then put in steel strengthening bars. A marine ply is installed and that is covered with breathable felt. Plastic slates are then installed. They look absolutely great and you really can't tell the difference between that and actual slate. The look-a-like slate effect is fantastic and the roofs are already proving popular.



Bill Smith, second from left, with fitters Chris Deakin, Paul Ward and Steve Kynaston

The work to install the new roof can take between two to five days depending on the size of the conservatory. Our customers have absolutely loved the new roofs. Anyone with a conservatory will tell you in the summer you can't sit in it because it gets too hot while in the winter the heat just goes through the roof and it is too cold. These roofs mean you can use your conservatory through-

out the year. Another service we are providing is bathroom panels. These panels are one metre wide and 2.4 metres high.

"The benefit is that it is one panel so you have no tiles or joints, making them easier to clean and you have no mould or fungus. They are proving really popular. You have seven different patterns to choose from to suit your style and taste."

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING



Beautiful conversion with stunning views

Built of local stone, The Granary at Pentre Farm, Woodhill, Oswestry is a beautifully presented and luxuriously appointed spacious barn conversion that has been finished to the highest of standards.

In an elevated position with excellent views over the Shropshire Plain and Welsh border, it is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £425,000.



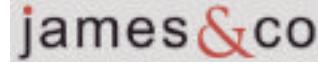
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www.jamesandcoproperty.co.uk



01691 652367
www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Period cottage will be going under the hammer at auction

A rare chance to buy a 17th century, Grade II Listed period cottage near Berriew, which requires modernisation and renovation, is being offered by auctioneers Halls. Stingwern Cottage, Brooks, has a guide price of £80,000 to £100,000 and will go under the hammer at Halls in Shrewsbury on April 17 at 3pm. Accommodation includes a kitchen, sitting room, dining room and two double bedrooms.

Viewing is by appointment with Halls' Welshpool office on 01938 555552.



Country property has plenty of scope for improvements

Erwalla Uchaf at Dolywern, Pontfadog, near Llangollen, is a three-bedroom country property providing ample scope for improvement with four acres of pastures. It has an adjoining barn with the potential for conversion. It is on the market with JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £235,000 and there is no chain. The accommodation comprises an entrance porch, living kitchen, sitting room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and rear porch. For more details contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



01691 653437
www.jjdell.co.uk



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Babbinswood
Oswestry

£395,000

- A substantial and most individual family property
- Set within just under an acre of gardens
- Reception Hall, Living Room, Study, Kitchen, Dining Room
- Conservatory, Utility Room, Separate WC, Cloakroom
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite, 4 further Bedrms & Family Bathroom
- Large driveway providing off road parking & integral double garage
- Oil Central Heating, Double Glazing, EPC Rating D

NEW



Hampton Rise
Oswestry

£249,995

- A comfortably appointed and spacious Detached 4 Bedroom Family House
- Ent Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Cloaks
- 1 Ground Floor Bedroom and En-Suite
- 2 Double Bedrooms, Conservatory and Family Bathroom
- Good size front and rear gardens
- Two driveways and double garage
- Gas central heating and double glazing, EPC Rating D

NEW



Glentworth Avenue
Oswestry

£220,000

- Spacious and well appointed 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Situated on a generous plot on the edge of Oswestry town
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen
- Utility, Sun Room, 4 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Good size front and rear gardens, driveway and garage
- Gas central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating

NEW



Station Road
Oswestry

£122,000

- A well maintained and deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom Mid-Terrace Property
- Lounge, large Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, ground floor Family Bathroom
- 2 first floor Bedrooms and first floor Bathroom
- Rear courtyard garden, good size front driveway and off-road parking
- uPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating. EPC Rating D
- The property should be of interest to first time buyers and investors



Woodhill
Oswestry

£425,000

- This beautifully presented and luxuriously appointed barn conversion has been finished to the highest of standards and sits in an elevated position offering excellent views over open countryside
- Kitchen/Dining Room, Utility Room, Lounge, 4 Bedrooms (two en-suite) and Family Bathroom
- Large garden, gravelled driveway and garage together with a raised seating area taking full advantage of the stunning views
- Oil central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating D

NEW



Berlau Ddg
Llansantffraid

£149,995

- A well maintained spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility
- 3 Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Family Bathroom
- South facing well maintained private rear garden
- Ample off-road parking and carport
- Oil C/H and double glazing. EPC Rating C



Pitt Lane
Treflach

£400,000

- An excellent Detached Country Property
- Set in an elevated position with excellent views over open countryside
- Reception Hall, Cloaks, Study, Lounge, Sun Lounge
- Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility Room, Separate WC
- 4 Double Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- South facing landscaped gardens, double garage
- Garden store and vegetable plot. Oil C/H. EPC Rating E

NEW



Vyrnwy Road
Oswestry

£144,995

- A beautifully appointed 2 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility
- 2 Bedrooms (master en-suite), and Bathroom
- Large rear garden comprising lawned area, beds, patio and lawned garden with meandering pathway.
- Double glazing and gas central heating. EPC Rating



Willow Street
Oswestry

£185,000

- Situated in a prime location in the Town centre close to Wilkinson's, Edinburgh Woolworths, Tote Bookmakers etc
- Recently cafe fit out, ideal for continued use (late night licence until 3.00 am) or possible alternative use
- Spacious first and second floor apartment, ideal for owner occupation/letting.



Wilfred Owen Avenue
Oswestry

£184,995

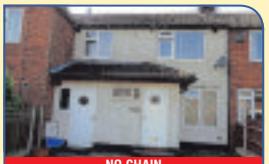
- A generous 3 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Originally constructed as a 4 bed and could be converted back
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms, Shower Room and Separate WC
- Well maintained gardens with driveway & garage
- uPVC double glazing and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D

Churchfields
St Martins

£139,995

- A spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- The property was constructed approx 10 years ago
- Ent Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- 3 Bedrooms, Shower Room and Separate WC
- Well maintained gardens with driveway & garage
- Gas C/H and D/G. EPC Rating C

NO CHAIN



College Road
Oswestry

£95,000

- A spacious 3 Bedroom Mid-Terrace Property
- The property has been modernised throughout
- Excellent fitted Kitchen, large Lounge, Conservatory
- 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Good size gardens to front & rear with designated off-road parking
- uPVC D/G and Gas C/H. EPC Rating E

NO CHAIN



Albert Mews
Oswestry

£104,995

- A substantial 2 Bedroom Terraced Property
- Situated within walking distance of Oswestry town centre
- Entrance hall leading into Kitchen, Living Room
- 2 Double Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Private garden to rear and parking
- Gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing. EPC Rating E

NO CHAIN



Old St Martins Rd
Gobowen

£87,000

- Spacious and comfortable End-of-Terrace House
- Sitting Room, Kitchen
- Family Bathroom, Two Excellent Bedrooms
- Enclosed lawned garden to the rear
- Double glazing, gas fired central heating
- Gas Central Heating, D/G. EPC Rating E

Oswestry
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Former farmhouse has landscaped gardens

A detached former farmhouse, Foxes Lodge on By Pass Road in Gobowen, is situated at the end of a private driveway and located in a popular village.

The property has very secluded landscaped gardens and is on the market through Town & Country for £239,500. Accommodation briefly comprises a living room, sitting area, sitting room/dining room, kitchen, utility room, two separate WCs, three bedrooms and bathroom/shower room. Externally is a double garage and ample off road parking and landscaped gardens. Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 for details.

TOWN & COUNTRY

Tel: 01691 679631



Home has stunning views over countryside

A rurally located detached cottage, Brwynog at Llanfihangel is on the market with Morris Marshall and Poole for £239,500. The property has stunning extensive views over the adjoining countryside. The accommodation comprises an entrance hall, a sitting room, study, living room, kitchen, a bathroom and three bedrooms. Outside pathways and steps give access to the enclosed gardens which comprise lawns, orchard, paved and grass seating areas, attached 'boiler' house with oil-fired boiler, detached stone and timber built sheds.

For more details contact Morris Marshall and Poole on 01691 679595.

M | M | P

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land & property specialists



Haughton
Nr Oswestry
Guide Price £745,000

Charming country residence | 4 beds, 2 en-suite | **8.5 acres** | 3 bed annexe | outbuildings | equestrian facilities | gardens | quiet rural location | EPC - D



Chetwynd Aston
Nr Newport
Guide Price £725,000

Extended cottage | 4 bedrooms | **5.3 acres** | stables | paddocks | floodlit manège | swimming pool | tranquil and private location | close to Lilleshall Hall | EPC - F



Ollerton
Nr Market Drayton
Guide Price £399,999

Arts & Crafts extended cottage | 3/4 bedrooms | 3 reception | versatile, cosy accommodation | private gardens, lovely views | must be seen | EPC - D

The many attributes of this delightful country residence make it a rare and pleasing find in the heart of the beautiful North Shropshire countryside on the Welsh border. With substantial and versatile accommodation, paddocks and stabling, The Slades provides a wide variety of opportunities in a quiet, secluded location.

Approached via a charming courtyard, The Slades has an abundance of doors and windows which seamlessly meld the gardens and grounds with the cosy but light and airy feel of the property. Originally a two-bedroom sandstone, traditional Shropshire cottage dating back approximately 300 years, the property has been substantially

extended to provide the current spacious and versatile accommodation. The layout of the main house, with two staircases, and the adjacent self-contained, three bedroom bungalow provide a multitude of possibilities including bed and breakfast, extended family accommodation, games room, holiday lets or office space, subject to any necessary planning consent.

The extensive outbuildings offer scope for a variety of uses for further development.

The paddocks, which are post and rail fenced, and stable yard with American-style barn, have a separate access from the house allowing the land and stables to be let as a separate unit if required.



01630 692500

info@barbers-rural.co.uk



Antiques centre found at architectural gem

NESTLING alongside Bryn-y-Grog Hall near Marchwiel, a mid-18th century neo-classical architectural gem, is Bryn-y-Grog Antiques Centre.

No matter what type of antique you are interested in you are certain to find the item you need at this spectacular venue.

The stunning countryside of Marchwiel provides the perfect setting for the outstanding hall which has grown in popularity since the decision to open the antiques centre and brings visitors flocking to the area.

Established 13 years ago, it has grown from strength to strength, now boasting over 40 independent dealers selling a vast range of goods including glass, china, giftware, paintings, clocks, jewellery, lighting, old Persian rugs, bric-a-brac and furniture dating from the 17th century to retro and modern.

The owners also buy any of the above items, with immediate cash given.

House clearances can also be arranged.

If you have some free time go and see for yourselves.

You will find some new shabby chic units just opened with some great unique and very reasonably priced items.

One dealer has lovely old garden tools and all sorts of related gardening requirements.

There is also a DIY section and a large timber department selling hard and soft woods at prices that are hard



Bryn-y-Grog Antiques Centre has a vast array of great items

to beat. On the parkland in front of the hall there are regular weekend events including car boot sales, horse events, circuses and caravan club ral-

lies. The centre is open seven days a week from 10am to 5pm.

For more information call (01978) 355555.

BRYN-Y-GROG HALL ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES

WWW.BRYN-Y-GROG.COM

Over 50 individual specialist traders offering a vast selection of high quality items including furniture from 17th Century to vintage and Retro, pictures, glassware and ceramics.

We also cater for the particular collector; social history, vintage clothing, toys and kitchenalia are all strongly featured. Increasingly, 'lifestyle' merchandise is filling our shelves to meet the demands of regular shoppers.

Throughout the year our Emporium provides attractive and imaginative seasonal gift ideas to suit every age and every pocket. We also buy any of the items and immediate cash is given.

Open 7 days a week 10am - 5pm

For over 25 years our Estate grounds have played hosts to a well attended car boot sale. Individual sellers, specialist traders, and the general public all travel from miles around simply to enjoy the buzz of the event, and to snap up that elusive bargain.

Held every Sunday from late March until mid October sellers can simply arrive on the day (usually to set up around 7am) and all for a pitch cost of a remarkable £5 irrespective of the size of the vehicle, van or car with trailer.

We hope you enjoy your visit

The centre is open 7 days a week 10am - 5pm

Located 1 mile South of Wrexham on the A525

Wrexham to Whitchurch Road at Marchwiel LL13 0SR

01978 355 555

www.bryn-y-grog.com
info@bryn-y-grog.com

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Great family fun at popular attraction

EASTER is going to be spectacular at Park Hall Countryside Experience near Oswestry.

So if you are looking for an action packed day out with the kids this is the place to be.

The Easter Eggstravaganza begins on Saturday with the Great Egg Hunt, with lots of chocolate involved, which takes place twice a day and there is also clues around the farm to solve an Easter Mystery. And of course Easter would not be Easter without gorgeous baby chicks to hold and cute cuddly lambs to feed.

Park Hall has opened a sensational new outdoor attraction just in time for Easter, a 40-metre zip wire.

Already the kids can't get enough of it, but adults can have a go too.

Down on the farm there is lots of close contact with farmyard friends.

It is great to have the opportunity to bottle feed lambs, groom ponies, cuddle rabbits, hand milk a cow, or lead the heavy horses.

Jump on a tractor ride to see more of the farm and all the new lambs frolicking in the fields.

The highlight of your day will undoubtedly be the Pig Racing, you might even be lucky enough to pick the winner.

The two massive indoor play barns at the farm ensure rain never stops play, while outdoors there are great adventure courses and driving fun for kids.

At a slower piece, visit the museums – the Welsh Guards Collection, the Victorian School and the Iron Age



Pig racing is hugely popular at Park Hall Countryside Experience

Roundhouse. A visit to Park Hall is a full, action packed day out for families, it really is a farm park like no other, there's a surprise around every corner.

Adults admission £8.40, children £8.40, concessions £7.80, family (2&2) £31.80. For more information visit www.parkhallfarm.co.uk



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Town museum is a popular attraction

OSWESTRY'S town museum has proved to be a huge success since it opened in 2012.

Thousands of visitors have gone to the museum, which is based in the Guildhall on the Bailey Head in the centre of Oswestry, to learn more about the area and its history as well as to have a look around some of its fascinating exhibits.

There had been talk and plans for such a dedicated town museum for many years but for various reasons those plans never came to fruition.

Campaigners, volunteers and history enthusiasts were therefore understandably delighted to see the museum open its doors for the first time in March 2012.

The museum was officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony in front of about 80 guests.

In the first week of the museum opening there were 400 visitors, an indication of how much such a service was needed in the area.

The opening was welcomed by many people with various visitors bringing in donations which they wanted to see displayed in the museum.

The popularity of the museum has continued with visitors coming from all around the world as well as the local area and very quickly milestones such as the 1,000th and 5,000th visitor were reached.

Less than two years after it opened it was announced the museum had had its 10,000th visitor and the number just keep on growing.

This year the museum has continued to be busy.

Mark Hignett, from the museum,



Mark Hignett takes a look at some of the exhibits at Oswestry Museum

it has. It has given us a more professional setting."

The museum has been involved in various community projects since it opened particularly the Heritage Open Weekends which sees buildings not normally open to the public open their doors.

Many of the museum's exhibits have been popular with visitors particularly its timeline which traces the development of Oswestry.

"We had our own hopes for it but it is better than we thought and the feedback has been great.

"We are very grateful for all the support from the town council has given us.

"Without the town council we would have gone ahead with the museum but it would not have gone ahead the way

New homeware and gifts ready for spring

LISTERS Interiors in Mardol, Shrewsbury, is looking forward to Easter and the joys of spring with a delightful array of new seasonal giftware and home accessories.

Their selection of charming Easter egg cups, cute Easter rabbits and spring-blossom flower arrangements make perfect Easter presents for that special mum or grandmother.

Spring is also the ideal time to bring a cheery freshness into the home with a change of curtains and bedding to liven up any room. Give your tired upholstery a lovely makeover with a breezy bumblebee or garden stripe cushion bringing a new life to that trusty sofa. As spring further blossoms why not think about giving those windows new vitality with some fresh new curtains? Listers have a fine selection of spring pastels, lacy voiles and floral prints amongst so much more, which will give any room a fantastic new lease of life for the bright months ahead. But let's not forget what Listers are best known for, furniture. They have added the dark wood Chateau French Acacia bedroom collection and a rustic pine collection of living/dining room furniture called Montana Plank. These two collections complement Listers' existing oak, pine and painted collections perfectly.

Amongst these established ranges Listers continue to offer so much in the way of unusual and individual items of furniture, home accessories, lighting, gifts, jewellery, handbags and



Listers Interiors in Mardol is looking forward to Easter and to spring even gift vouchers. So why not pop down to Listers, The Village in Mardol this weekend and have a look around their stunning showrooms, or visit online at the website www.listersinteriors.com

Oswestry Museum

The Story of Oswestry

Oswestry Town Museum

Discover Oswestry's History

Come along and have a wander around the exhibits, the timeline and perhaps, if you have an interest in local history, you may wish to volunteer to help with the museum's on-going development.

This is the Oswestry Town Museum and we'd very much like for the people of Oswestry to make it their own.

OPENING TIMES:
Wednesday and Friday 10 - 4
Saturday 10 - 3.30

Location: The Guildhall, Bailey Head
Oswestry SY11 1Pz
www.oswestrytownmuseum.co.uk
mailto:info@oswestrymuseum.co.uk

THE VILLAGE

The Village, Mardol, Shrewsbury SY1 1PU
01743 242666
www.listersinteriors.com



CONTACT THE CHRONICLE ON 01691 668094



The ABC Minors badge



The ABC Minors at Bridgnorth's cinema, perhaps about 1950

Memories of town's popular cinema club

HERE they are – the ABC Minors who used to enjoy the Saturday morning picture shows at the Majestic Cinema in Whitburn Street, Bridgnorth, over 60 years ago.

This was a popular cinema club for children – you can see they are all wearing their badges – with a programme typically comprising cartoons, regular films, and serials.

And one of those to enjoy the fun back then was Mrs Joyce Foxall, who at that time was a young Joyce Truelove.

Joyce and her husband, the Rev Frank Foxall, live these days in Shawbirc, Telford, but hail from Bridgnorth.

Joyce was a monitor at the Saturday morning shows, which was a bit like being a prefect, and had certain responsibilities.

"Block 13, I was," she recalls.

"When the children came in I had to make sure they were quiet. You had to keep them in order and if they dropped sweet papers I would ask them to pick them up. If they didn't I had to go round my block afterwards and clean it up," she said.

"It was good as we saw lots of different pictures. I enjoyed it. It's going back a few years now."

Husband Frank chipped in: "It was better than Tiswas on the telly" – although in fact he did not himself go.

Joyce lived at the time in Victoria Road in Bridgnorth.

"I was maybe about 14 at the time. A lot of them in the picture are a lot younger than me."

She estimates the date of the picture as the late 1940s. She says the two adults at

the back were the ones who recruited the monitors.

"I don't know how they picked me. I was at Bridgnorth Grammar School then."

"The cinema was quite full – I don't know about upstairs, but downstairs where I was, it was quite full. Maybe some of these others on the picture will remember more than me. I went to school with a lot of them."

She cannot remember how long she was the monitor there, but thinks it was perhaps until she left school and went to work.

However, she continued to go to the cinema.

"I used to love it when I was going home after watching some of these lovely musicals, singing up the road as I went."

Joyce is on the photo and she and her husband have been able to put names to faces of many of the others.

They are: two adults at the very back, unknown.

Back row, three unknowns, Roger Preece, Tony Brickley, unknown, Graham Rutter, Peter Banks, unknown and possibly George Baker.

Middle row: three unknowns, Joyce True-love, Tricia Smith, Pauline Hawker, Janet Thorne, Muriel Turner, Gwen Coleman, Margaret Rogers.

Front row: two unknowns, Peter Bray, Ken Hall, "Paterson", Audrey Starr, Ann Summers, Mary Dyke, George Banks, and Alec Edwards, with the pair sitting closer to the camera on the right being Selwyn Bowen (he was a brilliant whistler) and, on the right, unknown.

The sign on the back wall, right, says "Kind Hearts & Coronets" which was a 1949 British movie starring Alec Guinness, and the photographs on the wall may well be stills from the film.



These cottages were demolished to make way for the cinema

According to the internet, there was even an ABC Minors song.

The song was sung to the sound of a band playing the marching music "Blaze Away". The words were as follows (or very similar).

"We are the boys and girls well known as Minors of the ABC

And every Saturday all line up

To see the films we like, and shout aloud with glee

We like to laugh and have a singsong

Such a happy crowd are we.

We're all pals together.

We're minors of the A-B-C."

Apart from the picture of the ABC Minors, Frank has an interesting picture which shows Whitburn Street before the opening of the cinema, and the cottages which were demolished to make way for it.

As the cinema opened in November 1937, the photo must obviously date from some time before then.

• Were you in ABC Minors? Or can you identify any of the "unknowns" on our picture? If so, why not drop us a line and share your memories?

Punishment for potato rioters - innocent or guilty!



THE Great Potato Riot at a Shropshire school is still remembered by ex-pupils – as is the remarkable punishment which followed.

Next day, apart from the newcomers in the first year, every boy in the school without a cast-iron alibi got the cane. About 150 boys in Madeley Modern School queued up to get their punishment – a whack on the hand – one by one. The innocent suffered with the guilty.

The trouble had arisen in the autumn of 1949. In the school grounds there were garden plots, and the boys were encouraged to have a plot.

The potatoes were dug out of the ground and left in situ to dry out. It does not take much imagination to realise the temptation this presented

for young schoolboys. First one boy threw one and within a short time there was a barrage in every direction. One or two went through the school windows.

The headmaster, Mr Philip Keyte, was ex-navy, and strict. Next day, at morning assembly, after the prayers, hymns, and announcements, he turned his attention to the trouble of the previous day.

"I want every boy apart from the first years to come to the right hand side of the stage and form a queue," he said.

Mr Keyte stood in the middle of the stage with a big cane.

"Boys, this is going to be an example to you all." The boys walked up the steps on the side, he gave them a big whack across the hand, and they went down the stage the other side.

Recalling the incident years later, Ivor Brown

– who was for reasons which escape him nicknamed "Chava" – said he was inside the school running off a magazine with two or three others and with the deputy head, Miss Crump, when the riot started.

"I turned round and heard breaking glass and could see there were two large groups having a good go at each other in the potato patch, pulling them up and throwing them at each other. Many were missing and hitting the windows."

Thanks to a note from Miss Crump giving him an alibi, he was not among those caned.

"He just lined them all up. I remember seeing the line. It came out of his study, out into the corridor and into the quadrangle."

"I am sure that about 50 of the boys managed to produce evidence that they weren't involved."

He reckoned that about a quarter of those caned that day were innocent.

Conflicting accounts of riots over town sewers



Market Drayton town centre in the 1950s

THE Market Drayton mob had the police on the run.

Two officers tried to escape in disguise, but were rummaged and chased for over a mile, finally hiding in woods. Another hid in a chimney.

A big crowd laid siege to the home of one unpopular officer who held them at bay by brandishing a six-shooter.

And what was it that stirred Market Drayton residents to such a fury that the Army had to be sent for to quell the riots which saw police driven out of town or in hiding, the place smashed up, and pools of blood in the streets? It was a plan to do up the sewers.

Faced with disease, high mortality, and unsanitary conditions, the people of Drayton were too stupid to see the benefits of introducing improvements, and too mean to pay for them.

At least, that was the impression gained by the national press.

The Daily Telegraph opined: "The whole affair is wretchedly un-English, and can only be explained by the supposition that the educational status of Market Drayton is deplorably below the standard of civilisation."

Yet it is clear from correspondence in the local paper at the time that there is an alternative explanation for the riot – that the residents were sent over the edge by police brutality.

It all started with a meeting on Monday, September 25, 1865, at the Corbet Arms Hotel in Market Drayton to discuss a proposal to adopt the Local Government Act of 1858. There was a "very large" attendance of owners and ratepayers. The effect of adopting the act would have been to do up the sewers, and the meeting was told that the sanitary state of the town was very bad, which explained the high mortality.

On a vote, the proposal was overwhelmingly defeated. Ratepayers didn't think it was needed, were unhappy about the cost falling on them and there was anger that some of the problems were allegedly being caused by people emptying their water closets – early toilets – into the sewers and then expecting others to pay to cost of cleaning the place up. Those with water closets would no doubt have been better off members of Drayton society, with the poor using earth-closets.

After the meeting a crowd gathered in the street. What happened next depends, as with so many riots, on who you choose to believe.

The Newport Advertiser and North Shropshire Herald reported: "After the meeting there was a scene of tumult and disorder which it is believed was never before witnessed in our town... After the meeting was over, the police made an onslaught on the crowd to clear the streets.

"It is said that the police had been previously severely pelted with stones; as the matter however will no doubt be enquired into, and it is hoped that the truth will be arrived at, we will express no opinion as to where the blame, if any, rests.

"The mob paraded the streets throughout the day and for the time there was a reign of terror." Another account told how there was a large and peaceful crowd in the High Street "when without any sufficient provocation the police made a savage and indiscriminate attack."

On the Wednesday a special train brought a detachment of the 64th Regiment of infantry from Manchester. But by then all had quietened down and they did not stay long.

The police version of events was that a crowd of at least 500 assembled in front of the Corbet Arms and began to throw stones at police and the shops.

At the court cases that followed, there were allegations that police indiscriminately bashed men, women, and children over their heads with their truncheons.


Pointless Celebrities

5.50pm
Eurovision edition of the quiz. Competing are former Bucks Fizz singers and 1981 winners Cheryl Baker and Mike Nolan; Johnny Logan and Dana, who both won the title for Ireland; and Martin Lee - of 1976 victors Brotherhood of Man - teaming up with Sonia, who came second in 1993.


Gardeners' World

6.05pm
The clocks go forward this weekend, so it's time to get down to business in the garden, with Monty Don planting up a new bed of asparagus and showing how to lift and divide hostas. Plus, the programme's second report from South Africa explores the conditions that allow agapanthus to thrive in the wild.


The Jonathan Ross Show

9.25pm
The host welcomes another batch of celebrity guests to his famous green room, including Hollywood leading man Keanu Reeves, who talks about his new hitman thriller John Wick, comedy stars Catherine Tate and Russell Brand, and chart-topping singer Olly Murs, chatting as well as performing live.


Stonehenge: Walking Through History

7pm
Tony Robinson embarks on a walk across Wiltshire, from Avebury to Stonehenge, telling the story of the development that occurred in the latter days of the Neolithic era. His route takes him through one of the greatest concentrations of prehistoric sites in Europe.


NCIS

9pm
The team investigates the murder of a marine working for the Defence Intelligence Agency who was blamed for the disappearance of 500 specialised rifles in Afghanistan. A cryptic message found at the scene, written in the victim's blood, leads the agents on the trail of a controversial manuscript.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast.
8.00 **Live Formula 1: Malaysian Grand Prix Qualifying.** Suzi Perry presents coverage from the Sepang International Circuit (Start-time 9.00am).
10.30 **Saturday Kitchen Live.** James Martin is joined in the studio by chefs Andrew Turner and Glynn Purnell, as well as guest Jodie Kidd, who faces either food heaven or food hell.
12.00 **BBC News: Weather.**
12.10 **Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's Euro 2016 qualifiers, including Israel v Wales and Northern Ireland v Finland. Plus, a review of England v Lithuania.
12.50 **Saturday Sportday.** A look ahead at the day's events.
1.00 **Bargain Hunt.** Catherine Southon and Paul Laidlow head to Edinburgh to help teams of forensic scientists and lecturers find potentially profitable items to take to auction. (R)
2.00 **Formula 1: Malaysian Grand Prix Qualifying Replay.** Suzi Perry presents from the Sepang International Circuit, as the drivers battled for pole position in the second round of the campaign. (R)
4.00 **FILM: Over the Hedge (2006).** A wily raccoon tricks some gullible animals into stealing food from a suburb so he can pay off an angry bear. Animated comedy, featuring the voices of Bruce Willis and Steve Carell.
5.20 **Celebrity Mastermind.** Neil Pearson, Adam Buxton, Nellufar Hedayat and Chris Johnson answer questions on subjects including David Bowie, the Harry Potter novels and the Monty Python films. (R)
5.50 **Pointless Celebrities.** Eurovision edition, featuring former Bucks Fizz stars Cheryl Baker and Mike Nolan, Johnny Logan and Dana - who both won the title for Ireland - and Sonia. (R)
6.40 **BBC News.**
6.50 **Midlands Today: Weather.**
7.00 **The Voice UK.** Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the live semi-final of the competition, in which the remaining eight contestants perform twice for a chance to make it through to the final.
9.05 **Casualty.** Zoe begins to suffer recurrent bad dreams, which see her experiencing the same events more than once in a Groundhog Day-like episode. Sunetra Sarker stars.
9.55 **The National Lottery Live.** Gaby Roslin reveals the results of the Lotto and Thunderball draws.
10.05 **BBC News: Weather.**
10.25 **FILM: Meet the Parents (2000).** A male nurse makes a disastrous bid to impress his girlfriend's father - a former CIA agent who does not suffer fools gladly. Comedy, starring Robert De Niro and Ben Stiller; **National Lottery Update.**
12.05 **FILM: Rogue (2007).** A party of tourists taking a boat trip in an uncharted part of the Australian Outback is attacked by a ferocious crocodile. Thriller, starring Radha Mitchell and Michael Vartan. (BST) Weather for the Week Ahead. BBC News.
2.45 (BST) Weather for the Week Ahead. BBC News.

BBC2

7.05 **Racing Legends: Stirling Moss.** Actor Patrick Stewart and former racing driver Stirling Moss travel to Florence in a classic Mercedes to retrace the route of Italy's most famous road race - the Mille Miglia. (R)
8.05 **FILM: The Last Flight of Noah's Ark (1980).** A pilot agrees to fly a prime missionary and a cargo of wild animals across the Pacific - with disastrous results. Disney adventure, starring Elliott Gould and Genevieve Bujold.
9.40 **Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole.** Steve Backshall searches for the world's deadliest animals. (R)
10.10 **Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole.** Abseiling into an Alaskan glacier. (R)
10.40 **Fred Dibnah's Magnificent Monuments.** Houses and palaces. (R)
11.10 **The Nature of Britain.** The UK's pastoral landscape. (R)
12.00 **A Taste of Britain.** Local delicacies, dishes, and recipes from the Thames area.
12.30 **Michel Roux's Service.** Eight young people learn the art of good restaurant service. (R)
1.30 **FILM: The Importance of Being Earnest (2002).** Two bachelors using the same pseudonym capture the hearts of a couple of girls - but their deception leads to confusion. Oscar Wilde comedy, starring Colin Firth.
3.00 **Growing Up Wild: Natural World.** The problems faced by young animals as they develop into adults. (R)
4.00 **Athletics: World Cross Country Championships.** Steve Cram and Paula Radcliffe present action from the biennial event, held in Guiyang, China.
5.05 **Flog It!** From Wells Cathedral in Somerset.
6.05 **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don plants up a new bed of asparagus and shows how to lift and divide hostas, plus a report from South Africa explores how agapanthus can thrive in the wild. (R)
6.35 **Kew on a Plate.** Summer has arrived and Raymond Blanc tries to protect his carrot crop, while Kate Humble learns how the vegetable was once used in medicine. (R)
7.35 **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring's men pose as traitors to see how the residents of Walmington-on-Sea would deal with genuine Nazi infiltrators in their midst. (R)
8.05 **Pavlopetri - The City Beneath the Waves.** Archaeologists use submersible robots and computer simulations to investigate the world's oldest submerged city, which lies off the southern coast of the Greek mainland. (R)
9.05 **FILM: Looper (2012).** Premiere. A hitman employed to kill people who have been sent back in time finds his latest target is his future self. Sci-fi thriller, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt.
10.50 **FILM: Apocalypto (2006).** Mel Gibson's historical adventure, with Rudy Youngblood.
2.00 (BST) **This Is BBC2.** Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.
5.55 **FILM: The Amazing Mr Blunden (1972).** Children's fantasy, starring Laurence Naismith.

ITV

6.00 **CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.10** Bottom Knocker Street **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **7.00** Cannibals **7.10** Sooty **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story **7.30** **Scrambled!** Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.
7.35 **Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters.** Animated comedy. (R)
7.50 **Scrambled!: Adventure Time.** Fun for children.
8.30 **Scrambled!: Horrid Henry.** Cartoon about a mischievous youngster.
8.50 **Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash.** Animation based on the superhero character.
9.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
10.20 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
11.20 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
12.25 **ITV News and Weather.** Weather.
12.30 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
1.35 **FILM: Murder, She Wrote: The Last Free Man (2001).** Mystery, starring Angela Lansbury.
3.30 **River Monsters.** Part one of two. Jeremy Wade investigates the Loch Ness Monster. (R)
4.00 **Off Their Rockers.** Seb steals flowers from a funeral. (R)
4.30 **Big Star's Little Star.** With Jimmy Bullard, Martin Offiah and Tricia Penrose. (R)
5.30 **ITV News Central.** Weather.
5.45 **ITV News and Weather.**
6.00 **You've Been Framed! Top 100 Talent.** Harry Hill narrates a countdown of 100 talent-themed clips sent in by viewers, featuring everything from karaoke calamities to stage falls and battle stunts gone wrong. (R)
7.00 **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The mischievous duo take control of Cheryl Fernandez-Versini in I'm a Celebrity Get Out of Me Earl!, and Clare Balding is this week's star guest announcer.
8.25 **You're Back in the Room.** Hypnotised contestants take on four seemingly simple challenges, including a Bush Tucker Trial with former I'm a Celebrity campers Joe Swash, Vincent Simone and Vicki Michelle.
9.25 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host welcomes Keanu Reeves, who talks about his new hitman thriller John Wick, plus Catherine Tate, Russell Brand and Olly Murs, who performs live.
10.25 **ITV News and Weather.** Weather.
10.45 **FILM: Nutty Professor II: The Klumps (2000).** Bumbling scientist Sherman Klump tries to rid himself of his troublesome alter ego Buddy Love, but his experiment backfires. Comedy sequel, with Eddie Murphy and Janet Jackson.
12.40 **Jackpot247.**
4.00 **FILM: (BST) Carry On Don't Lose Your Head (1966).** Comedy spoof, with Sid James and Kenneth Williams. ITV Nightscreen.
5.30

Channel 4

6.10 **The Grid.** Including a look at the 12 Hours of Sebring race.
6.35 **Cycling: Sarah Storey's Longest Hour.** The five-time Paralympic gold medallist's attempt to break the world hour record.
7.30 **FIM Superbike World Championship.** Highlights of the opening round of the season in Australia.
8.00 **The Morning Line.** Racing preview from Doncaster.
9.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray invests \$1,000 in a go-kart business. (R)
9.30 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Marie, Amy, Stefania and Judy list Robert's faults. (R)
10.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray tries to become a better father. (R)
10.30 **Frasier.** The Crane brothers clash. (R)
11.00 **Frasier.** A policewoman steals Frasier's heart. (R)
11.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** Penny considers breaking up with Leonard. (R)
12.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon hires an attractive female assistant. (R)
12.30 **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD.** Coulson and team are faced with the consequences of their war with Hydra. (R)
1.30 **Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Doncaster and Kempton Park.
4.05 **Channel 4 Racing: Dubai World Cup.** Emma Spencer presents live coverage of the world's most lucrative flat meeting.
5.35 **The Simpsons.** Sideshow Bob is released from prison. (R)
6.05 **The Simpsons.** Bart decides to steal a kiss from his crush at school after taking advice from Grampa. (R)
6.30 **Channel 4 News.**
7.00 **Stonehenge: Walking Through History.** Tony Robinson embarks on a walk across Wiltshire, from Avebury to Stonehenge, telling the story of the development that occurred in the latter days of the Neolithic era. (R)
8.00 **The World's Weirdest Weather.** Sunlight transforms water into liquid gold, a record-breaking heatwave wipes out thousands of bats, and little-understood gravity waves are captured on camera. Last in the series.
9.00 **Coalition.** Feature-length political drama charting events in 2010 that led to Nick Clegg's rise from rank outsider to the man who would decide the fate of the country. Starring Bertie Carvel. Postponed from Thursday.
10.35 **FILM: Wanted (2008).** A man joins a secret society of superpowered assassins that kills people destined to commit acts of evil. Action adventure, starring James McAvoy.
12.45 **Alan Carr: Chatty Man.** The host is joined by Morrissey, who performs his single Kiss Me A Lot, former Coronation Street star Michelle Keegan, magician Troy and Hollywood actor Elijah Wood. (R)
2.35 **FILM: (BTS) Rendition (2007).** Political thriller, starring Reese Witherspoon and Jake Gyllenhaal.
4.30 **Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. Jason is on the trail of a missing Freddie. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas **6.20** Angelina Ballerina **6.30** Milkshake! Bop Box **6.35** Pip Ahoy! **6.45** The Mr Men Show **7.00** Chloe's Closet **7.10** Milkshake! Show Songs **7.15** Olly the Little White Van **7.20** Make Way for Noddy **7.30** Milkshake! Monkey **7.35** Paw Patrol **7.45** Little Princess **8.00** Wanda and the Alien **8.10** Zack and Quack **8.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.45** Jelly Jamm **9.00** LazyTown **9.30** Dora and Friends **10.00** Milkshake! Show Songs **10.05** The Mr Men Show **10.15** SpongeBob SquarePants.
10.50 **FILM: The Borrowers (1997).** Children's fantasy, starring John Goodman.
12.30 **FILM: Columbo: Strange Bedfellows (1995).** Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Rod Steiger.
2.25 **Holiday Love Rats Exposed.** Last in the series. (R)
3.25 **Costa Del Casualty: Benidorm ER.** A businessman has a life-threatening infection. (R)
4.25 **GPs: Behind Closed Doors.** Dr Baveja tries to discover the root cause of a patient's crippling back pain. Last in the series. (R)
5.25 **The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** A south London couple battling to evict squatters. (R)
6.20 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner evict a couple who owe five months' rent on a flat in an affluent London suburb. (R)
7.10 **Police Interceptors.** Jim is on the trail of a speeding motorcyclist, Jon retrieves a stolen caravan and Sarah deals with the aftermath of a drunken brawl between two brothers. (R)
8.00 **5 News Weekend.**
8.05 **NCIS.** Gibbs and DiNozzo investigate the case of a retired marine colonel found murdered with an axe, and discover the evidence points to his drug-addicted son. (R)
9.00 **NCIS.** The team investigates the murder of a marine working for the Defence Intelligence Agency who was blamed for the disappearance of 500 specialised rifles in Afghanistan. (R)
9.55 **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** An ex-con is killed in a car accident and the CSIs find a trail of blood leading them to a shallow grave where the victim had been buried alive. Guest starring Sharon Osbourne.
10.55 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** The detectives link the kidnapping of a girl to her mother's crooked father, who has misplaced a bag of diamonds he was holding for a colleague. (R)
11.50 **True Crimes: The First 72 Hours.** Following cases from across Canada and America during the first three days after a crime is committed. (R)
12.15 **SuperCasino.**
4.00 (BTS) **Costa Del Casualty: Benidorm ER.** (R)
4.50 **Aidan: The Rarest Boy in the World.** (R)
5.35 **Chinese Food in Minutes.** (R)
5.50 **Access.**


Antiques Roadshow
8pm

Fiona Bruce and the team return to Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, where finds include a sketch by LS Lowry, a 17th-century longcase clock, a model of a local ship that was once the fastest to cross the Atlantic, and a miniature piano that opens up to reveal a couple of secrets inside.


Pompidou
6.35pm

The penniless aristocrat has hoarded too much junk and Hove has had enough. The butler attempts to shift some of the clutter at a church hall fete, but Pompidou will do anything it takes to ensure he keeps it all. Comedy, starring Matt Lucas and Alex Macqueen.


Live International Football
2.40pm

Brazil v Chile (Kick-off 3.00pm). Coverage of the friendly match, which takes place at the Emirates Stadium in London. With so many of their players based in Europe, Brazil have become accustomed to staging some of their non-competitive matches at the home of Arsenal.


Indian Summers
9pm

Simla is buzzing amid preparations for its annual amateur-dramatics performance, but the production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* is overshadowed by the news of a murder victim's body found in the river. Aafrin is shocked when Sergeant Singh confronts him about the missing evidence.


World's Scariest Animal Attacks
8pm

Terrifying encounters caught on camera by ordinary people. A diver narrates his own shocking footage of a great white shark breaking open his cage with its jaws and an agitated elephant charges a honeymooning British couple on an African safari.

BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast.**
7.00 **Live Formula 1: Malaysian Grand Prix.** Suzi Perry presents coverage of the second round of the season from the Sepang International Circuit (Start-time 8.00am).

10.30 **Homes Under the Hammer.** Properties in Central London and Stoke-on-Trent.

11.00 **Sunday Politics.** The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.

12.15 **Bargain Hunt.** Experts Philip Serrell and Anita Manning help two teams find items to sell at auction at Newark Antiques and Collectors' Fair. (R)

1.00 **BBC News;** Weather.

1.15 **Escape to the Country.** (R)

2.00 **Formula 1: Malaysian Grand Prix Replay.** Suzi Perry presents the second round of the season from the Sepang International Circuit, where Lewis Hamilton was victorious last year. (R)

4.00 **The Truth About Calories.** Chris van Tulleken gets to the bottom of calories, finding out whether food labels are accurate, revealing a few cooking secrets and the best way to burn them off after a meal. (R)

5.00 **Songs of Praise.** Aled Jones visits Liverpool Cathedral.

5.35 **BBC News.**

5.50 **Midlands Today;** Weather.

6.00 **The Big Painting Challenge.** The amateurs travel to Dartmouth for the final, creating artworks at the Royal Naval College and a painting of Dartmouth harbour before the winner is decided. Last in the series.

7.00 **Countryfile.** Matt Baker meets the Hampshire farmers who started with nothing more than a handbook and an empty field, and Charlotte Smith discovers the links between farming and fashion. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team return to Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, where finds include an LS Lowry sketch, a 17th-century clock, a model of a local ship and a miniature piano.

9.00 **Poldark.** News of Ross and Demelza's marriage shocks the locals, although Charles's reaction is the most unexpected of all. Verity sets about teaching the new bride the art of being a lady.

10.00 **BBC News.**

10.20 **Midlands Today;** Weather.

10.30 **Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You.** David Mitchell hosts an extended edition of the satirical quiz from May 2014, with writer Andy Hamilton and comedian Susan Calman joining Paul Merton and Ian Hislop. (R)

11.10 **Film: Deja Vu (2006).** A federal agent uses a top-secret device that allows him to see into the past to prevent a bombing taking place. Sci-fi thriller, starring Denzel Washington.

1.05 **Film: AWOL: Absent Without Leave (1990).** Action adventure, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Harrison Page. Weather for the Week Ahead.

2.50 **BBC News.**

BBC2

7.30 **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don shows how to lift and divide hostas. (R)

8.00 **Countryfile.** Adam Henson visits the Isle of Man and presents archive clips about different creatures. (R)

9.00 **The Andrew Marr Show.**

10.00 **The Big Questions.** From Hayesfield Girls' School in Bath.

11.00 **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Highlights of the series.

12.30 **A Taste of Britain.** Janet Street-Porter and Brian Turner visit Norfolk.

1.00 **Back in Time for Dinner.** The Robshaws get to grips with the home life of the 1960s. (R)

2.00 **Michel Roux's Service.** The hopefuls work at a cafe and a curry house. (R)

3.00 **Flog It!** David Barby and Catherine Southon view antiques at Buckland Abbey in Devon.

4.00 **Triathlon.** Jonathan Edwards presents action from the second round of the ITU World Triathlon Series in Auckland, New Zealand, featuring the men's and women's races.

5.35 **Operation Stonehenge: What Lies Beneath.** Part two of two. The construction, design and significance of the ancient stone circle. (R)

6.35 **Pompidou.** Hove thinks his employer has hoarded too much junk and tries to shift some of the clutter at a church hall fete, but Pompidou will do anything it takes to ensure he keeps it all.

7.00 **The Sea King: Britain's Flying Past.** John Sergeant examines the history of the Sea King helicopter, which has been in service since 1969 and piloted by both Prince Andrew and Prince William. (R)

8.00 **Caribbean with Simon Reeve.** Simon visits Barbados and St Vincent, before examining the mismanagement of Venezuela's natural resources and spending time with the Kogi people in Colombia.

9.00 **Louis Theroux: By Reason of Insanity.** Part two of two. The journalist meets patients whose personalities and mental illnesses are so intertwined it makes treatment more difficult, and examines how insanity is defined.

10.00 **Bluestone 42.** New recruit Captain Ellen Best arrives on base and her presence soon affects the team in different ways, while Towerblock is desperate to prove he is fitter than Rocket.

10.30 **Film: Dream House (2011).** Premiere. A man begins to suspect his new house may be haunted, and that the ghosts have a connection to his own past. Horror, starring Daniel Craig.

11.55 **Film: The Mission (1986).** The missionary work of Jesuit priests in 18th-century Brazil is threatened by crooked merchants and rival Church factions. Historical drama, with Robert De Niro and Jeremy Irons.

1.55 **Sign Zone: Countryfile.** Adam Henson visits the Isle of Man, finding out about 19th-century naturalist Edward Forbes and local farming. (R)

2.50 **Sign Zone: Holby City.** (R)

3.45 **This Is BBC2.**

ITV

6.00 **CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.10** Bottom Knocker Street 6.20 Bottom Knocker Street 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 7.00 Canimals 7.10 Sooty 7.25 Signed Stories: Share a Story **Scrambled: Scrambled!** Two hours of children's fun.

7.30 **Scrambled: Nerds & Monsters.** Animated comedy. (R)

7.50 **Scrambled: The Aquabats! Super Show!** Action comedy. (R)

8.30 **Scrambled!: Horrid Henry.** Cartoon about a mischievous youngster.

8.50 **Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash.** Animation based on the superhero character.

9.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)

10.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)

11.35 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)

12.40 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.

12.50 **Murder, She Wrote.** A deputy sheriff is accused of murder. (R)

1.50 **All Star Family Fortunes.** Diarmuid Gavin and Gemma Merna take part. (R)

2.40 **Live International Football.** Brazil v Chile (Kick-off 3.00pm).

5.15 **Catchphrase.** Guessing game, hosted by Stephen Mulhern. (R)

6.05 **ITV News Central;** Weather.

6.15 **ITV News and Weather.**

6.30 **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Meera Syal (The Kumars), fashion designer David Emanuel, former England rugby player Kyran Bracken and comedian Johnny Vegas take on a trivia expert. Bradley Walsh hosts. (R)

7.30 **Off Their Rockers.** The hidden-camera show continues, as Barry receives a few hygiene tips, Dave performs an unusual act of kindness and Deb flexes his muscles for a game of arm-wrestling.

8.00 **Coronation Street.** Hour-long episode. Steve worries that Michelle does not really want to marry him. Meanwhile, Bethany is determined to miss her flight, so she throws away Nick's car keys.

9.00 **Mr Selfridge.** Harry locks horns with Loxley in the boardroom, Princess Marie grows more suspicious about the Selfridge Estate project and Gordon faces a romantic decision. Last in the series.

10.00 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.

10.15 **Cricket World Cup Highlights.** Action from the final at Melbourne Cricket Ground in Australia, where the two remaining teams battled it out for the trophy won by India four years ago.

11.15 **Premiership Rugby Union.** Highlights from the 18th round of fixtures, including Northampton Saints v Wasps, Saracens v Harlequins and Sale Sharks v Gloucester.

12.15 **The Store.** Home shopping.

2.30 **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** The host takes his successful talk show stateside, where he invites American guests to air their differences. (R)

3.10 **ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.

5.05 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

Channel 4

6.35 **How I Met Your Mother.** Lily realises she still has doubts about becoming a parent.

6.55 **How I Met Your Mother.** New series. Ted and Barney argue over a beautiful woman.

7.15 **How I Met Your Mother.** Robin oversees Ted to a blind date.

7.40 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra's parents split up. (R)

8.05 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Frank offers to paint Ray's house. (R)

8.30 **Fraser.** The radio station's new owner visits. (R)

9.00 **Fraser.** Roz dates a compulsive womaniser. (R)

9.30 **Sunday Brunch.** With Kevin McHale, Seaside Steve and Ashley Walters.

12.30 **George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** A UFO-themed pre-fabricated Future house. (R)

1.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** The group spends the Thanksgiving holiday at Mrs Wolowitz's house. (R)

1.55 **The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon is bothered by the attention following a scientific discovery. (R)

2.20 **The Simpsons.** Featuring the voice of Sting. (R)

2.50 **Film: Leap Year (2010).** Romantic comedy, starring Amy Adams and Matthew Goode.

4.50 **A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.** Searching for a house in Warwickshire and France. (R)

5.50 **Channel 4 News.**

6.00 **Film: Johnny English Reborn (2011).** A bumbling former secret agent is lured out of seclusion to foil an attempt to assassinate the premier of China. Spy comedy sequel, starring Rowan Atkinson and Gillian Anderson.

8.00 **Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore a picturesque stretch of the Canal du Midi in the south of France, visit the town of Beziers and taste lamb's brain fritters.

9.00 **Indian Summers.** Simla is buzzing amid preparations for its annual amateur-dramatics performance, but the event is overshadowed by the news of a murder victim's body found in the river.

10.00 **Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)

11.05 **Film: End of Days (1999).** Supernatural thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

1.20 **Film: The French Connection (1971).** Oscar-winning fact-based crime thriller, starring Gene Hackman.

3.05 **Come Dine with Me.** A cafe owner hosts the first party in Dundee and St Andrews. (R)

3.35 **Come Dine with Me.** Francis Glancy hosts the second party in Dundee and St Andrews. (R)

4.00 **Come Dine with Me.** Laura Cunningham hosts the next dinner party in Dundee and St Andrews. (R)

4.30 **Come Dine with Me.** (R)

4.55 **Come Dine with Me.** (R)

Channel 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig 6.05 **Bananas in Pyjamas** 6.20 **Angelina Ballerina** 6.30 **Milkshake! Bop Box** 6.35 **Pip Ahoy!** 6.45 **The Mr Men Show** 7.00 **Chloe's Closet** 7.10 **Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures** 7.15 **Ollie the Little White Van** 7.20 **Make Way for Noddy** 7.35 **Paw Patrol** 7.45 **Little Princess** 8.00 **Wanda and the Alien** 8.10 **Zack and Quack** 8.30 **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom** 8.45 **Jelly Jamm** 9.00 **LazyTown** 9.30 **Dora and Friends** 10.00 **Milkshake! Show Songs** 10.05 **Mr Men**

10.15 **SpongeBob SquarePants.** Double bill. SpongeBob has unexpected guests.

10.50 **The Hotel Inspector.** A Hay-on-Wye inn with negative online reviews. (R)

11.50 **Film: Cop and a Half (1993).** Family comedy adventure, with Burt Reynolds.

1.35 **Film: Around the World in 80 Days (2004).** Comedy adventure, starring Steve Coogan and Jacki Chan.

3.50 **Film: Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son (2011).** Comedy, with Martin Lawrence.

5.55 **Film: Happy Feet (2006).** Animated adventure, with the voice of Elijah Wood.

7.55 **5 News Weekend.**

8.00 **World's Scariest Animal Attacks.** Terrifying encounters caught on camera, including a shark biting open a diver's cage, and an anaconda sinking its teeth into a Brazilian policeman. (R)

9.00 **Film: Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters (2013).** Premiere. The fairytale brother and sister grow up to battle a powerful sorceress stealing children for an arcane ritual. Fantasy adventure, with Gemma Arterton and Jeremy Renner.

10.50 **Film: Step Brothers (2008).** Two 40-year-old men who have never left the family home are forced to share a room when their single parents marry each other. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell and John C Reilly.

12.45 **Jackass.** In the first-ever episode of the irreverent stunt show, Johnny Knoxville tests self-defence weapons on himself and an Oompa Loompa gets speedy on a skateboard. (R)

1.15 **SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.

3.10 **Breaking the Law: Bent Coppers.** Stories of five police officers who have been jailed for crimes including theft, conspiracy to kidnap, planning a robbery, drug dealing and fraud. (R)

4.00 **House Doctor.** Ann Maurice applies her home improvement remedies to a house in Spennymoor, Co Durham, for the purpose of finding a buyer as soon as possible. (R)

4.25 **Make It Big.** The big day finally arrives for the charity event, and tensions run high as the girls annoy the caterers by altering the seating plan. Meanwhile, Graham pleads with Jamie and Simon. (R)

4.50 **Make It Big.** The charity evening gets under way. (R)

5.15 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)

BRAIN TRAINING

Test your mental agility. Target times, in minutes, are in the little clocks

9-er

3

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all 9 letters.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

THE CLUES

578 is a nocturnal animal,
98678 is a kind of weasel,
31249 are insects.

Your time:

X is to Y

2

1. Ealhswith is to Alfred as Cynethryth is to ?
ATHELSTAN, ATHELWULF, BURGRED, OFFA,
RAEDWALD

2. Sofa is to Settee as Futon is to ?
ARMCHAIR, BED, CUPBOARD, DESK,
WARDROBE

3. Gas is to Accelerator as Trunk is to ?
BONNET, BOOT, CLUTCH, HOOD, INDICATOR

Your time:

Mindbender

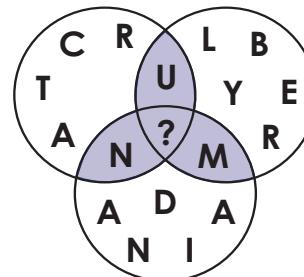
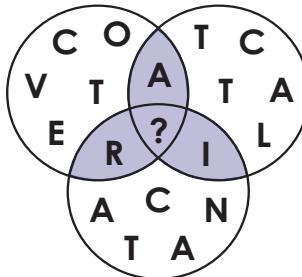
4

Today is Alec's birthday! In three years' time, he'll be half as old as his father is now. Fifteen years ago, his father was one and two thirds as old as Alec is today. How many candles are on Alec's birthday cake?

Your time:

CIRCLEGRAM

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be rearranged to form words with a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



ALPHAMUDDLE

Rearrange the letters to make five words that read both across and down. Five letters have been placed to start you off.

C	H	I	L	E
A	S	T	E	E
T	A	I	L	E
R	A	I	C	E
C	H	A	I	L

		C		
			E	
				A
	H			
		L		

IMPOSSIPUZZLES

1. 'But surely your birthday is next month,' said Susan, stroking the mink stole. 'It's a lovely present.' 'I got it with the £799 Aunt Aggie left me,' said Linda. 'But why the odd amount?' asked Susan. 'Well, she put £1 into a box my first birthday, and £1 for each year of my age after that until I married,' Linda replied. 'After that she made it three for each year instead of one. My last birthday she must have put in £87, and it all came to me.'

How old was Linda when she married?

2. 'I just got something on our three ages,' Charlie told his sister. 'Interested?' Ruth smiled. 'Not really, but you're the oldest of us and I'm the youngest, so I suppose I should listen.' 'Well, we're spaced one year apart,' Charlie declared. 'And if you write your age before Mary's, you get my age, multiplied by Dad's.'

How old was their father?

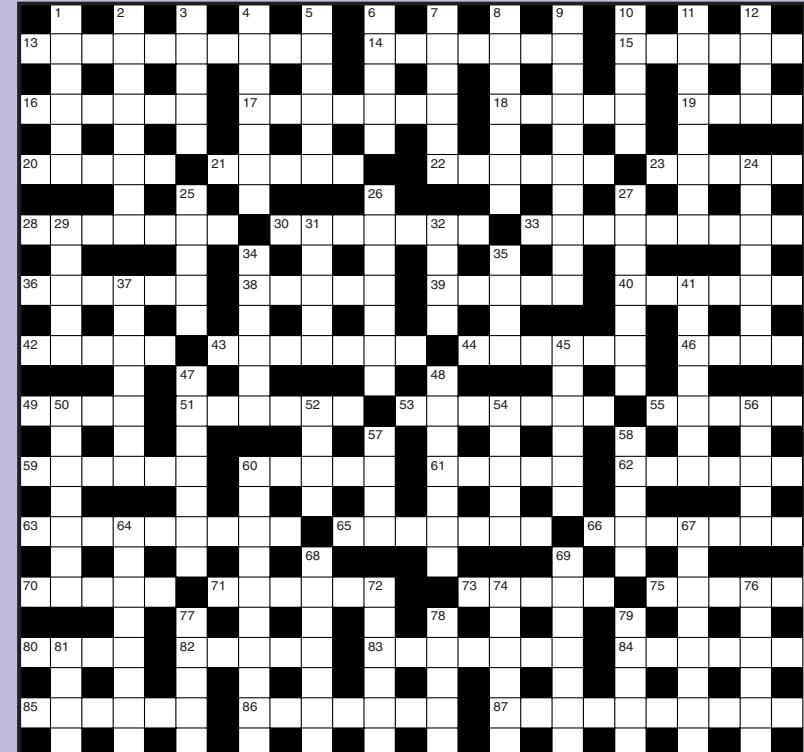
3. 'I've been thinking,' said Andy. 'When you were a third as old as I am, I was as old as you are.' Susie smiled. 'I'll take your word for it, but I hate to think of ages,' she replied. 'Do you realise our two ages total a hundred?'

Hardly a happy thought! How old was Susie?

SUDOKU

6				7		2	9
5		2		9			6
	3			4	6		
			6		3	8	
1	6				5	9	
2	8			3			
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1			8	6	3		3

CROSSWORD

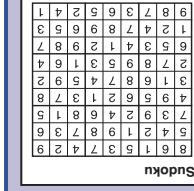


ACROSS

13 Start early (4,3,3) 49 Avoid (4) 41 Hunter (7)
14 Case (7) 51 Programme (6) 45 Bag (6)
15 Run off (4,2) 53 Sink (7) 47 Semi (7)
16 Kept (6) 55 Extra (5) 48 Very (7)
17 Obsessed (7) 59 Obvious (6) 50 Plant (7)
18 Liquid (5) 60 Penniless (5) 52 Decrease (4)
19 Location (4) 61 Journeys (5) 54 Follows (5)
20 Jar (5) 62 Drying (6) 56 Register (5)
21 Bet (5) 63 Disposed of (5,4) 57 Incline (4)
22 Wanders (6) 65 Language (7) 58 Spiteful (5)
23 Compel (5) 66 Harden (7) 60 Biscuit (6,4)
28 Moved (7) 70 Runs (5) 64 Reckon (8)
30 Expand (7) 71 Coming (6) 67 Ancestor (8)
33 Prepares (4,5) 73 Confess (5) 68 Divers (7)
36 Quickly (6) 75 New (5) 69 Error (7)
38 Wrong (5) 80 Stop (4) 72 Refills (4,2)
39 Yet (5) 82 Stick (5) 74 Abstracted (6)
40 Reach (6) 83 Sign (7) 76 Gleams (6)
42 Courage (5) 84 Animal (6) 77 Game (5)
43 Dog (7) 85 Preferable (6) 78 Inexperienced (5)
44 Tool (6) 86 Usually (2,1,4) 79 Annoyed (5)
46 Pain (4) 87 Causes trouble (5,5) 81 Abound (4)
47

DOWN

1 Gather (6) 42 Attack (7) 41 Turn (5) 77 Odd (7)
2 Drink (8) 43 Despicable (7) 32 Covering (4)
3 Colour (5) 44 Determined (3,2) 33 Turn (5) 78 Waves.
4 Intellectual (7) 45 Divers (7) 34 Cover (4) 79
5 Guarantee (6) 46 Colourless (5) 35 Serve (4)
6 Colourless (5) 47 Pictures (6) 36 Turn (5) 80
7 Pictures (6) 48 Waiter (7) 37 Turn (5) 81
8 Waiter (7) 49 Almost (6,4) 38 Turn (5) 82
9 Almost (6,4) 50 Bitter (5) 39 Turn (5) 83
10 Bitter (5) 51 Gather (6) 40 Turn (5) 84
11 Gave up (8) 52 Drink (8) 41 Turn (5) 85
12 Herb (4) 53 Colour (5) 42 Turn (5) 86
13 Confess (5) 54 Desirable (7) 43 Turn (5) 87
14 Coming (6) 55 Colourless (5) 44 Turn (5) 88
15 New (5) 56 Pictures (6) 45 Turn (5) 89
16 Stop (4) 57 Determined (3,2) 46 Turn (5) 90
17 Stick (5) 58 Pictures (6) 47 Turn (5) 91
18 Sign (7) 59 Desirable (7) 48 Turn (5) 92
19 Animal (6) 60 Pictures (6) 49 Turn (5) 93
20 Preferable (6) 61 Desirable (7) 50 Turn (5) 94
21 Usually (2,1,4) 62 Pictures (6) 51 Turn (5) 95
22 Causes trouble (5,5) 63 Desirable (7) 52 Turn (5) 96
23



DOWN: 1. Musler, 2. Appert, 3. Strade, 4. Egg, 5. Ensure, 6. White, 7. Silesia, 8. Silesian, 9. Grotto, 10. Shrub, 11. Fossils, 12. Min, 13. Jump the gun, 14. Holes, 15. Hook, 16. Sodden, 17. Hunched, 18. Water, 19. Site, 20. Great, 21. Water, 22. Stays, 23. Gels, 24. Stiff, 25. Sustained, 26. Gels, 27. Stays, 28. Stiff, 29. Horse, 31. Twigs, 32. Gels, 33. Stays, 34. Gels, 35. Sustained, 36. Pores, 37. Stays, 38. Gels, 39. Stays, 40. Twigs, 41. Stays, 42. Gels, 43. Stays, 44. Gels, 45. Stays, 46. Gels, 47. Stays, 48. Gels, 49. Stays, 50. Twigs, 51. Stays, 52. Gels, 53. Stays, 54. Gels, 55. Stays, 56. Pores, 57. Stays, 58. Gels, 59. Stays, 60. Twigs, 61. Stays, 62. Gels, 63. Stays, 64. Gels, 65. Stays, 66. Pores, 67. Stays, 68. Gels, 69. Stays, 70. Twigs, 71. Stays, 72. Gels, 73. Stays, 74. Gels, 75. Stays, 76. Gels, 77. Stays, 78. Gels, 79. Stays, 80. Twigs, 81. Stays, 82. Gels, 83. Stays, 84. Gels, 85. Stays, 86. Pores, 87. Stays, 88. Gels, 89. Stays, 90. Twigs, 91. Stays, 92. 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Charming encounter with larger than life otters

ONE of the world's best aquaria graced the shoreline not 50 metres from where we stood. It may therefore be assumed that having come to Monterrey Bay, California to view its sea life, turning away from the beach and up into the tourist attraction would be the best thing to do.

However even in a bustling, holiday-maker's West Coast dream town, wild animals can be spied more easily than you may think.

My wife Rhiann and I had woken early.

We were at first disappointed to see that the dawn light showed a mist-strewn bay with little evidence of anything going on that could remotely be considered interesting.

Nonetheless we hurried our breakfast (as impossible as that may be in America) and headed down to the shoreline and beneath an old pier to launch our kayaks.

There's nothing quite like exploring the inlets and caves of a wild coast than by the silent propulsion of oar and paddle.

Granted the inlets here were jetties and the caves were curving concrete breakwaters and tidal defences, but you get the idea.

Being a weekend and with few people up and about, we paddled out into the water of the bay with barely a ripple on the surface.

The mist enveloped us and had it not been for the fact that the sun was just about becoming visible, the whole situation may have been quite disorientating.

But there in our shroud of vaporous

ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams



haze, we were completely separated from the shore and free to enjoy the waking of nature out here in the blue miasma.

The first things that made themselves known to us were the harbour seals.

Popping up every so often and even resting their heads on our sterns.

As we paddled we periodically grazed over kelp patches which made the going slow.

However, interspersed within the top leaves (technically, blades) of this mighty sea plant, were otters.

Huge West Coast sea otters.

The densest fur in the animal kingdom and surely one of the most charming countenances around.

The pups crawled onto their mother's stomachs as they in turn lay on their backs, entwined amongst the fronds of weed, safe from drifting off into deeper water.

Managing at last to free ourselves physically and emotionally from the otters, we paddled into darker water.

Every so often large shapes would move below us. I assumed these to be sea lions and certainly told my wife this, but breaking out of the mist, we saw what must have been high on the whole colony out of the water and sitting on the pier.

Dismissing any notions of Jaws, we returned to the shore having had a wonderful time and noticing that a few people had just



On the West Coast – oil on board – by Ben Waddams

about managed to make it down for breakfast.

A few months later enjoying a chilly morning walk in the mist similar to what we've been having of late, I checked the news app on my phone.

A kayaker had just been attacked by a

great white shark in Monterrey Bay. Neither nor the shark were harmed but it did send a prickle up my neck.

Maybe in future I will stick to Salopian otters and inland aquaria.

Ben's artwork can be viewed online at benwaddams.com

Hospitals look to recruit more NHS employees

MORE recruitment days will be held to find extra staff to work at Shropshire's two acute hospitals.

The events will take place to fill vacancies in a number of departments at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Telford's Princess Royal Hospital.

It comes after the success of recent events organised by Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust which led to more than 200 healthcare assistants being recruited.

The upcoming events, which will be held at Shropshire Conference Centre at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital on Wednesday and on April 9, are being organised in response to a national staffing shortage in the NHS, according to trust chiefs.

Health bosses say the events are an excellent opportunity to meet members of the senior nursing team, including matrons and ward managers, have a tour of one of the hospital sites, and learn more about what the trust has to offer.

Posts are available in both the unscheduled and scheduled care groups, including in the acute medical units, cardiology/coronary care unit (CCU), nephrology and the acute stroke unit. There are also opportunities on the surgical wards including colorectal and gastroenterology, head and neck, the surgical assessment unit and trauma and orthopaedics.

The trust is also recruiting to its temporary staffing department.

Sarah Bloomfield, director of nursing and quality at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH), said: "We are very keen to encourage applications from registered nurses in community settings, including care homes and GP practices, who wish to come back into the acute hospital setting, and from student nurses due to qualify in the next six months."

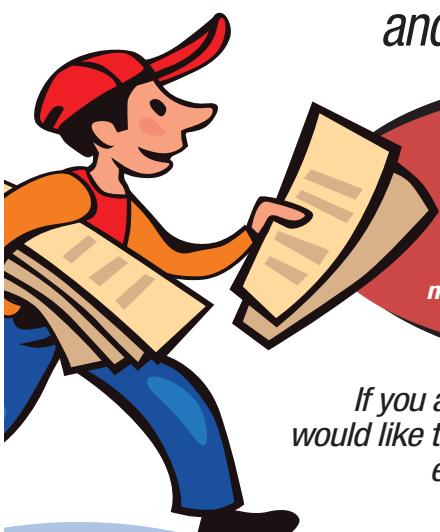
Both events will include representatives from the trust's corporate education team, clinical practice educators, the library and the Royal College of Nursing and Unison unions, together with members of the employee experience team, who will be on hand to answer any questions.

Members of the recruitment team will also be on hand to co-ordinate all the necessary assessments, interviews and pre-employment checks.

Anyone wishing to take part in either of the events is asked to apply for the posts they are interested in on the NHS Jobs at www.jobs.nhs.uk, using the keyword "nurse" and location "Shropshire".

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SUSAN 44, stunning curly blonde, fit and active seeks happy go lucky male for good conversation, fun times, maybe more. ACA Crossover Tel: **0905 212 7840** Box No: **416057**

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall slim and dominant. Aca. Tel: **0905 002 1937** Box No: **415301**

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. Crossover Tel: **0905 212 7840** Box No: **416707**

ANNE, mid 40's, cheerful bubbly cuff avy, seeks real woman! Seeks gent, any age or looks for nights at mine. Tel: **0905 002 1935** Box No: **410291**

SLIM fair-haired lady, fit 4t looking for a male 30 to 40 for a friendly warlike summer. Text Only Mailbox Box No: **4527227**

PAULA 40, sensual, young at heart brunette looking for some fun and romance with a tall outgoing male. Call if you feel the same. ACA Tel: **0906 500 3724** Box No: **416681**

BRIDGET 48, voluptuous, seductive and very saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. Tel: **0905 500 3724** Box No: **416083**

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional gent, GSOH, seeks special, sociable, good natured, seeking female with GSOH for laughs, conversation and maybe more. Tel: **0906 500 3724** Box No: **415969**

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COMPETITIVE



Alltrack a versatile machine

By James Parker

Based on the new Passat Estate, the new Passat Alltrack impresses with an independent off-road look, 4MOTION permanent all-wheel drive and highly advanced technologies.

The updated version confidently handles rough terrain, on the one hand, while simultaneously providing excellent cruising comfort – thanks to the driving profile selector and DCC adaptive chassis control.

The Passat Alltrack is an independent model within the model series. This can be seen in exterior features such as the modified bumpers (with underbody guard



in stainless-steel look), rugged wheel arch and side sill moulding covers in 'Anthracite' and sill extensions.

Its 27.5mm higher ground clearance also makes it ready for any driving situation. Anodised silver roof rails, 'Alltrack' badges on the radiator grille and tailgate, and custom 17in alloy wheels (18in and 19in wheel options available) upgrade this Estate even more.

At the same time, the Passat Alltrack scores with state-of-the-art technology. Thanks to its special Offroad driving programme with suitably modified assistance systems, modified chassis and the alliance of EDS (electronic differential lock), XDS+ and 4MOTION permanent all-wheel drive, it is the perfect all-round vehicle for both the on-road and off-road worlds.

Ideal

The Passat Alltrack is an ideal towing vehicle. A towing load of 2,200kg (braked) can be hitched to it on a 12 per cent gradient (exception: 110kW/150PS TSI has towing capacity of 1,800 kg).

In addition, the Passat Alltrack can be fitted with an exceptionally large range of driver assistance and infotainment systems. They include an active info display (fully digital instruments), head-up display (for projecting information) and media control rear-seat entertainment system for tablet computers. Front Assist (lane-changing assistant), Emergency Assist (stops vehicle in emergency), Traffic Jam Assist, Rear Traffic Alert (detects vehicles in cross-traffic when backing out of parking spaces) and Trailer Assist (for assisted manoeuvring with a trailer).



'The Passat Alltrack is an independent model within the model series. This can be seen in exterior features'

The theme of infotainment also assumes a high priority in the Passat Alltrack. A total of five radio and radio-navigation units are available for the Passat Alltrack, which enable a maximum degree of connectivity. The various interfaces include connecting to smartphones via App Connect.

App Connect consists of applications like Mirror Link, Car Play (Apple) and Android Auto (Google), which permit integration of nearly all smartphones and an enormous bandwidth of apps.

Volkswagen is offering a total of five new direct fuel injection engines for the new Passat Alltrack: The powerful petrol turbocharged engines (TSI) produces 110kW/150PS and 162kW/220PS. The range of the torque-strong turbo-diesels (TDI) begins at 110kW/150PS. The next higher power levels are 140kW/190PS and 176kW/240PS. They all conform to the Euro-6 emissions standard. A stop-start system and recover of braking energy with battery regeneration are also included as standard.

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Yeti range: Urban 28.8 (9.8) to 54.3 (5.2), Extra Urban 42.8 (6.6) to 67.3 (4.2), Combined 36.2 (7.8) to 61.4 (4.6). CO₂ emissions for the Yeti range are 184 to 119g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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A lot more car for your money

By James Parker

Known for providing exceptional value, Kia has introduced its new SR7 trim level on its Rio, Venga, cee'd and Carens ranges, replacing the previous VR7 specification but also adding more features as standard.

Offering a high level of standard specification across all models, the SR7 range is also available with discounts of up to £1,000, low rate 4.9 per cent APR PCP finance deals and the option of a Care-3 all-inclusive servicing package for just £99.

The Kia Care-3 all-inclusive servicing package provides retail customers with inflation-proof servicing costs for the first three services and is available for just £99 on the SR7 range. Care-3 is also fully transferable to subsequent owners.

All 'SR7' models share the same key specification. These include interior extras such as air conditioning, leather-trimmed steering wheel and gearshift. A selection of exterior features such as alloy wheels, reversing sensors, electrically-adjustable heated door mirrors and electric front and rear.

SR7 engines choices include Kia's 1.25-litre 85PS petrol powerplant for the Rio and the 1.4-litre 90PS unit in both Venga compact MPV and cee'd models.

With the Kia brand being known for offering exceptional value, SR7 trim level brings even more car for your money. For instance, the now discontinued Rio VR7 three-door was offered at £11,595 whereas

the new Rio SR three-door now retails at £10,845 on the road.

All SR7 models are equipped with LED daytime running lights, front fog lamps and cornering lights. Dual-zone air conditioning is also part of the SR7 package as are tinted windows, alloy wheels specific to the SR7 trim level, Bluetooth audio streaming or a USB port for plugging in iPod devices.

Handsome styling and with an impressive fit and finish, the latest Rio is bigger and smarter than its predecessor. The Kia Rio SR7 comes in both three and five-door bodystyles.

Practical

With smart looks, a practical interior, great build quality and solid engineering, Kia's third generation Carens is a much improved seven-seat compact MPV. Though well appointed, it offers strong value and efficient running costs. In other words, you get pretty much everything families are looking for in this segment, particularly in SR7 form.

Carens SR7 models are fitted with Kia's 1.4-litre 100PS or 1.6-litre 135PS petrol units. There's a choice of diesels too, a 75PS 1.1-litre engine in the Rio SR7, a 1.4-litre 90PS CRDi powerplant in the cee'd range and a larger 115PS 1.7-litre diesel motor in the Carens and Carens 4. The Carens SR7 range starts from just £17,595 on the road.

In second generation form, Kia's cee'd no longer only looks to undercut Focus-class family hatchbacks: it tackles them on equal terms at equal prices. Which means it will have to be very good indeed. Don't worry, it is! With sharper looks, great quality and higher technology, the cee'd



'In other words, you get pretty much everything families are looking for in this segment, particularly in SR7 form'

range is amongst the leaders in its family hatchback estate class. cee'd SR7 models are available in three and five-door body-styles with three-door cee'd models continuing to be badged as the pro-cee'd. The cee'd SR7 starts at just £14,650 on the road.

Korean Kia is intent on giving its products a European flavour and the Venga supermini MPV is one of its most successful efforts to date. A foursquare stance and neat detailing ensures it doesn't fall into the frumpy trap that captures many MPV

products, plus there are some clever design touches inside. Stop-start technology will generate headlines and Kia's warranty should continue to please owners. The Venga SR7 starts at £13,335 on the road including metallic paint.

Kia's extensive SR range offers exceptional value for money. Remember too, that you'll also have total peace-of-mind with the backing of Kia's pioneering 7-year warranty scheme. Check out the stylish, well-equipped SR7 range for yourself at local Kia dealer.

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Mazda brings lot to party

By Graham Breeze

Mazda is recovering quickly after UK sales took a big hit because of the pound to yen exchange rate – and you can expect things to get even better now that the new Mazda2 is in showrooms.

There's now a choice of 12 petrol and four dieses in a 16-strong line-up of the company's best-selling UK model and a five level grade structure of SE, SE-L, SE-L Nav, Sport and Sport Nav with prices from £11,995 to £17,395.

And with the brand's Skyactiv technology on board it's little wonder Mazda bosses are predicting a 24 percent sales growth this year against pretty flat industry sales.

The B-segment is a tough place to compete but using Skyactiv technology with its striking 'KODO - Soul of Motion' design philosophy, Mazda claim this model brings new levels of technological sophistication, driving pleasure and safety to the party.

At first glance there's no mistaking this latest addition to the Mazda family which has particularly attractive headlamp styling and a muscular stance.

But the outstanding features for me come in the safety department where Mazda has really outshone the rest of the competition in this sector.

There's an array of active safety systems which you don't normally get at this level, including Anti-lock Brakes (ABS), Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD), Electronic

Brake Assist (EBA), Dynamic Stability Control (DSC), Traction Control System (TCS) and Emergency Stop Signalling (ESS).

You also get Hill Hold Assist (HHA) and a Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) as standard across the model range.

SE-L (90ps & 105ps Diesel), Sport, Sport Nav grades and the Sports Launch Edition model are further equipped with a Lane Departure Warning System (LDWS), and Smart City Brake Support (SCBS).

Operating between speeds of 2.5 and 18.5mph, SCBS automatically applies the brakes if the system detects an imminent frontal impact.

Technology

There's also an optional Safety Pack on 115ps Sport Nav models offering even higher levels of driver assistance with High Beam Control (HBC), Blind Spot Monitoring (BSM) and Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA) system, and an Active Driving Display.

Mazda has gone even further by introducing my favourite technology to the model with the arrival of head-up display to the B-segment for the first time. That means you get to see your speed displayed on the windscreens, so there's no excuse for picking up tickets.

The cabin is a comfortable place to be with increased shoulder room up front, but it's still a little tight for six-footers in the back and the boot fails the golf clubs test unless you fold down the splitting rear seats.

There's now an easy to handle "multi-media commander" situated between the front seats which enables the driver to control the seven-inch touch screen display system.



'Mazda might just be under-cooking their sales predictions. I think we will be seeing a lot of this car in the next 12 months.'

DAB radio features for the first time in the Mazda2 and, in SE-L Nav and Sport Nav grades, a new navigation system offers improved search features and three years of free map updates.

Mazda's in-car connectivity system works with compatible iPhone and Android smartphones to access a variety of free mobile content via Aha™, a cloud platform-based service which features thousands of stations, personalised, location-based services and both Twitter and Facebook audio feeds.

MZD Connect also supports iPod®, MP3 and CD playback, terrestrial radio, SMS and readout functions.

The Skyactive 105PS Sports Diesel is my favourite from the range at £17,395 and producing only 89g/km of emissions.

On top of that you can reach 62mph in 10.1secs and get a top speed of 111mph and still achieve over 80mpg.

Mazda might just be under-cooking their sales predictions.

I think we will be seeing a lot of this car in the next 12 months.

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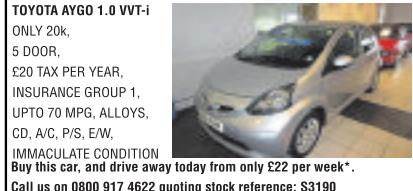
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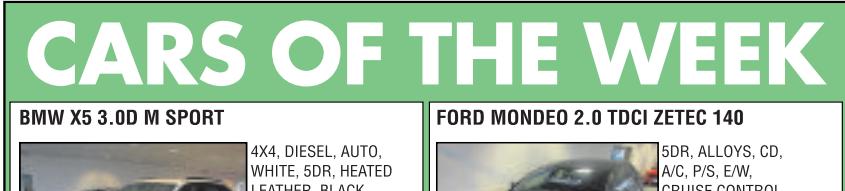
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Boss tipping Rangers to get back on goal trail

ELLESMORE RANGERS are still searching for their first win since the departure of top scorer Scott Ryan - but boss Dan Stevens has backed his team to end the season strongly.

Stevens allowed former Shrewsbury Town trainee Ryan, on target 34 times for Rangers this season, to climb two divisions and sign for Market Drayton.

Rangers, without a win in four games, remain handily placed in fifth spot and Stevens was pleased with the application shown by his young side to rescue a West Midlands League premier division point from a 1-1 home draw with Malvern Town last weekend.

"We've stalled a little bit recently and have not won in our last four," said Stevens. "But we want to get to 85 points if possible and to do that we would have to win seven of our last eight games which we're more than capable of doing."

Stevens, whose side host Dudley Sports on Saturday before travelling to Wolverhampton Sporting Community next Wednesday, insisted Ryan had left for Drayton with the good wishes of everyone at Beech Grove.

"We don't stand in the way of any lad if they've got a chance to play at a higher level," he said.

"Scott's a goalscorer - and that's what we're going to miss now, but we've still got other goals in the team."

Ellesmere fell behind just before half-time against Malvern last weekend but were eventually rewarded when the in-form Ryan Jones cracked home a left-footed shot 10 minutes from time to equalise.

Caereinion A are crowned champs again

CAEREINION A are the JC Dyke Oswestry and District Table Tennis League champions for the fourth consecutive season.

They went into their last match against Morda Tigers requiring a single point for glory, but came away worthy winners 8-2 and so sealed the title.

Wyn Williams was again unbeaten and was ably supported on this occasion by Glyn Jones and Robert Mansfield who both took two wins from three.

Williams and Jones concluded the evening with a convincing win over Jason Hughes and Jeremy Chavez in the doubles.

Morda Exiles look favourites for runners up position requiring only four points from their last game against Criftins A, who are bottom of the division.

In the second division Caereinion B not to be outdone by their club counterparts secured the second division title and will also feature in the knockout cup final against Llan-silin A later this week.

A deserved second place goes to the very improving youngsters of Criftins B who only lost to Caereinion throughout the season.

Waterloo in semis after super seven

WATERLOO Rovers sealed the place in the Montgomeryshire Challenge Cup semi-finals after seeing off Kerry 7-3 at Maesdyre.

Will Pritchard and Tom Ellis both scored twice, with Ricky Litchfield, Barry Haralambous and Andrew Gwilt also finding the net. Rovers now meet high-flying Llanfair United in the last four at a neutral venue.

Meanwhile, Mary Griffiths grabbed a hat trick as Llanfair Ladies racked up a 7-0 victory over Amlwch in the North Wales Women's League, with Nia Ellis bagging a brace. Louise Wilde and Nora Davies got the other goals.

TNS hit back after early shock

Port Talbot 1 The New Saints 3

NEWLY crowned champions The New Saints conceded their first goal in 10 games - but roared back to maintain their unbeaten Welsh Premier campaign with a 3-1 victory at Port Talbot.

After Liam McCreesh had put the Steelmen ahead midway through the first half, the high flying Saints earned parity through top scorer Mike Wilde right on half time.

Defender Connell Rawlinson then put the visitors ahead from a corner nine minutes after the break before Wilde's second of the game on 72 minutes ensured Craig Harrison's side would be returning home with all three points.

After lifting a fourth consecutive league title the week before, and ninth in all, the Saints were soon in their stride at the GenQuip Stadium with Adrian Cieslewicz and Aeron Edwards both forcing home keeper Steven Cann into action early on.

However, it was Port Talbot who took a surprise lead after 22 minutes when McCreesh broke into the box and tucked the ball past keeper Paul Harrison.

Undaunted, the Saints were back on the attack with Chris Marriott smashing a powerful shot against the woodwork. But the Steelmen then spurned a chance to double only for Martin Rose to put his header just wide of the post after being left unmarked in the box.

This miss returned to haunt the hosts when, with just a minute left in the first half, a well-taken shot from Wilde made the game all square.

The Saints started the second half with purpose and got their noses in front in the 54th minute when Marriott whipped a corner into the box and defender Rawlinson gave Cann no chance with his header.

And TNS gave themselves some breathing space on 72 minutes when a cross from substitute Scott Quigley was brought down by Phil Baker, and Wilde lashed the ball in from close range for his 15th league goal of the season.

There was no way back for Port Talbot as the Saints extended their unbeaten run to 36 games.

Monty on climb with a win over Penrhyn

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

MONTGOMERY pulled off the shock of the day in the Spar Mid Wales League division one after winning 4-0 at title outsiders Penrhyncoch to further boost their chances of escaping relegation.

Buoyed by their 8-1 drubbing of Four Crosses the previous week, Monty kept up their revival as they sentenced second placed Penrhyn to their first league defeat in 13 games to effectively scupper their challenge for league honours.

They were two goals up after just 12 minutes through Tom Evans and Elliot Jones and, after some stirring defence, sealed the victory in the second period through Tony Meredith and a second goal from Evans.

Defeat for Penrhyn means that leaders LLA-NEAIR UNITED moved closer to the title courtesy of their 2-0 home verdict against Tywyn Bryncrug, leaving them seven points clear at the top.

But the pacemakers were made to work hard for the points, being kept at bay for 75 minutes as chances went to waste, before Ross Frame made the breakthrough and Dan Jones sealed the win with a free kick in the dying seconds.

Following Monty's surprise win, BERRIEW slipped deeper into relegation danger after going down 1-0 to Bow Street whose scored the only goal of the game through Ifan Burrell in the first half. Will Thomas fired a hat-trick as WELSH-POOL eased past rock bottom Aberystwyth University 5-2 at Maesdyre to boost their hopes of challenging for a top five place.

LLANRHAEDR are up to fourth after hitting back for a 3-2 home success against WAT-TERLOO ROVERS who had twice led through Neil Pryce and Barry Haralambous in an entertaining affair.

After falling behind, Llan were level at the break when player boss Marc Griffiths slipped a pass to Joe Vaughan who turned before firing into the bottom corner.

Despite trailing a second time after the interval, the villagers were not to be denied as Griffiths levelled when heading in an Iain Edmunds cross, before snatching the points when Barry Morris launched a strong run down the left before swinging in a cross for Vaughan to nod his second goal of the game.

After conceding eight goals against Montgomery the previous week, FOUR CROSSES gained a welcome point when steadyading the ship with a 2-2 draw against Rhosgoch, while Machynlleth continue to push clear of the basement after prevailing 3-2 at Aberaeron.

TNS Ladies suffer a first defeat



The New Saints Ladies right-back Hannah Yates clears the danger during the first defeat at Police

THE title dream hangs in the balance for The New Saints Ladies who suffered their first defeat of the league season when losing 2-0 at leaders Birmingham & West Midlands Police.

The reverse means the second placed Saints are now seven points behind the high flying Police in the West Midlands Women's League premier division.

They now need to win their remaining three games, including the return match against the Police who have just one game remaining.

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Oswestry facing last game fight to survive

PRIORSLEE LIONS have brought back memories of their glory days by winning the Shropshire Chess League title for the first time since the 1990s.

Victory against last season's champions Telepost A took the Lions over the finishing line in a season where they made all the running.

They still have two matches left and their next target will be to stay unbeaten.

As Coddon A, the Lions won the last of six consecutive league championships in 1997. The club changed their name to Priorslee Lions when they had to move from their Coddon Sports and Social Club venue at Donnington when it closed in 2011 and moved to the Lion pub at Priorslee.

Things are starting to shake out at the other end of the table where Telford A were victors in the dog-eat-dog battle against Oswestry A which leaves Oswestry two points adrift at the foot of the division with just one match to play.

In Division Three, Newport B have guaranteed that they will join Church Stretton B in promotion. Their next ambition will be to leapfrog Stretton, over whom they have a game in hand, to go up as champions.

Results – Division One: Telepost A 1.5, Priorslee Lions A 3.5; N Ferrington 1, A Zdanowski 0; P Zabrocki 0.5, W Bates 0.5; M Clark 0, G Pugh 1; P Crean 0, S Tarr 1; K Tabner 0, G White 1.

Telford A 3.5, Oswestry 1.5; D Gostelow 0.5, B Whyte 0.5; R Thompson 1, D Bennion 0; J Footner 0.5, G Ives 0; W Peck 0, J Davies 1; S Tennant 1, K Grie 0.

Shrewsbury A 3.5, Wellington 1.5; F Best 1, T Faustino 0; D Lockett 1, C Roberts 0; D Everington 0, J Kaczynski 1; P Kitchen 1, C Mace 1; D Davies 0.5, J Jenkins 0.5.

Division Three: Priorslee Lions C 2, Telepost C 2; M Reynolds 1, O Mills 0; S O'Dell 0, C Micalef 1; A Brannen 1, N Holmes 0; T Gilmour 0, S Sweeney 1.

Newport B 3, Oswestry B 1; D Griffiths 0.5, S Tullett 0.5; A Mahmood 0.5, K Bacon 0.5; S Ross 1, A Evans 0; C Paul 1, J Molyneux 0.

Llany junior sides record fine victories

LLANYMYNNECH under-16s produced an impressive all round display as they ran out 4-2 winners at Shrewsbury Juniors in the Shropshire Junior Football League.

Goals from Josh Biggs, Josh Rowley, Kieran Matthews and Tom Evans secured the spoils with Alex Hall being named man of the match.

Llany's under-15s finished their league campaign on a high with a solid 4-2 victory at Shrewsbury Juniors.

Rhys Pain, Byron Edwards and Harry Garthwaite found the net in the first half while Edwards added his second and the team's fourth after the break to seal the win. Man of the match was captain Jack Foulkes.

Llanymynnech continued their recent run of good form at the under-14s level, making it two wins out of two with a 3-0 verdict against Whitchurch courtesy of second half goals from man of the match Adam Biggs, Alex Wagner and Joe Greybrook.

Results

Under-8s: Meole Brace 4, Llanymynnech 0; Under-9s: Ellesmere 1, Llanymynnech 2 (Jack Lawrence, Eddie Wagner); Under-10s: Worthen 1, Llanymynnech 1 (Jack Herbert, Lewis Todd); Under-11s: Oswestry Warriors 3, Llanymynnech 1 (Joe Hall, Lewis Hall); Under-12s: Llanymynnech 3, Whitchurch 0; Under-13s: Shrewsbury Juniors 0, Llanymynnech 4; Under-16s: Shrewsbury Juniors 2, Llanymynnech 4.

Morda kick their heels

AFTER several late changes to their fixture, Morda United were eventually left without a game in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division two.

Following the frustrating weekend, Colin Turner's team hope to return to action on Saturday when they are due to entertain fifth in the table Berriew reserves, a team they



Oswestry blast forward on the attack against Ormskirk in their 29-7 win at Granville Park. Picture: Andy Gozzer.

Eagles soar home in another fine victory

RUGBY UNION by John Bridgwater

ON SONG Oswestry kept alive their push for a top three finish in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two after maintaining their revival with a 29-7 victory over Ormskirk at Granville Park.

Their fifth victory in six outings maintained the momentum, keeping the Eagles in fifth spot, but with realistic hope of finishing even higher.

Although the top two places and promotion are well out of their reach, the Oswestry men can take plenty of heart from the way they have bounced back from a poor start to the year.

From man-of-the-match James Booth, Hamish Fuller, Zak Baldwin and Jamie Luckett secured a deserved victory against an Ormskirk who arrived at Granville Park lying just a couple of places below.

Oswestry started the game like a whirlwind and displayed their intent right from the first whistle by running hard lines and smashing into the contact at furious pace.

This was rewarded with a try from a scrum in the first two minutes, with Booth powering over the whitewash, with the score being converted by centre and vice-captain Gaz Hughes.

The game continued with both teams giving away some sloppy penalties, therefore losing ground at regular intervals, and, with Ormskirk pressing with plenty of possession, the hosts were made to defend for long periods.

Pressure

This put the Eagles under pressure despite contesting the breakdown at every opportunity, and matters were made worse on the half hour when the ever present Jamie Luckett was harshly penalised for entering the ruck from the side and was yellow carded by the referee.

Despite this, Oswestry continued to play to their game plan even though they were a man down but were beached moments later against the run of play as Ormskirk stole a turnover and were able to sneak in for a try, which was converted to level the scores.

Following the restart, the Eagles then put some brilliant interplay with forwards and backs moving ball from deep in their own half and forced play to within five metres of the visitors' line.

Another strong scrum saw Os rewarded by a score from 'The General,' scrum half Hamish Fuller, which was again converted by Hughes to give the side a 14-7 half time advantage.

The hosts came out for the second half with a real purpose of intent and some good running lines and support play resulted in forcing the



Scrum-half Hamish Fuller, with arms raised, celebrates Oswestry's opening try through James Booth

Ormskirk team into desperate defence. From the resulting lineout, the Eagles threw in and continued to advance with a fantastic driving maul for Baldwin to claim an unconverted try to stretch the lead to 19-7.

Oswestry's strong defence system was executed with precision, as was their continuous attacking wave from both set piece and loose play.

The pressure continued for Ormskirk and they were penalised for hands in the ruck, with the resulting penalty kick on 55 minutes being landed by Hughes to extend the margin further.

Ormskirk still tried to compete throughout the game and were camped in the home 22-metre area for sustained periods, but were met by some stubborn de-

fence that was determined not to concede any more tries.

Oswestry weathered the storm and then started to cut the visitors to pieces with some outstanding attacking play themselves.

On 72 minutes, with the defence pressing flat, impressive scrum Fuller spotted the space behind and executed a deft kick for Luckett to chase and gather the ball to score a fantastic try, which was converted by the on-form kicker Hughes.

Oswestry were full of energy throughout the game and came away as well deserved winners, and they will look to continue their upturn in fortunes when they visit Moore on Saturday – a side they hammered 66-0 just a few weeks back.

FC Oswestry keep up pressure at top

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

However, as the half progressed, the Oswestry side started to pass and probe with central midfielders Olly Jones and Paul Bache dictating play, and it was Bache who was first to test the keeper with a good header that was well saved.

Town were starting to purr and chances fell to Scott Bright and Al Morris, but the breakthrough came from the penalty spot after Bright was hauled down by the keeper. He dived himself down to give Town a narrow lead at the break.

With Town looking to seize the opportunity of closing the gap at the top with victory against their Telford rivals, the first quarter of an hour was a cagey affair with both teams careless with the ball.

Graeme Kirkham was unlucky not to score with two great efforts sliding just wide of the upright, while

Calum Williams also saw his shot whistle inches wide with assists from Elliot Howes, Bache and Olly Jones.

Bright hit the bar from close range, before the killer goal following terrific work from Dave Hartshorn and Harry Kerr was finally slammed home by Graham Dyke.

GOBOWEN CELTIC, lying third in division two, are still in the hunt for promotion following their 2-0 victory at Riverside, but they need to win their last two outings and hope that results elsewhere go their way.

ST MARTINS VILLAGE are up to eighth after hitting the goal trail with a 6-1 home verdict over Shifnal Harriers.

Fans can have a say on summer football

THE FA of Wales has launched an online survey which aims to gather supporters' views on a possible 'summer' football season running from February to October.

"Currently various factors including poor weather conditions during the months of November to February result in the postponements and re-scheduling of most fixtures across various levels of the Welsh domestic pyramid," the FA said.

"External television deals with other leagues highlighting the expansion of their live televised coverage to Fridays could threaten attendance throughout the pyramid during a traditional August to May season."

"There is a possible opportunity of capitalising upon this by shifting the Welsh domestic football season to benefit our national leagues which would lend to the development and sustainability of its clubs."

Attendances

The recent TV deal for English Premier League rights has raised concerns for the Welsh Premier League and secretary Gwyn Derfel said: "It's been no secret that Friday night attendances have been the highest we have been attracting in the league."

"I know clubs have tried to target Friday evenings in the past so the [new Premier League TV deal] is going to be another challenge."

"The news of Friday night games is not going to be great for our league."

"But with the 3G project I think clubs have got to accept that attendances are not the main drivers for revenue in clubs these days."

The survey seeks the views of fans of clubs right down the pyramid to Level 4 and below.

Evans above rest for a win at Welshpool

GOOD weather at the weekend saw another strong entry for final round of Welshpool Golf Club winter League.

Victorious on the day was Ian Evans, 44 points, followed by Mark Fletcher, 45, narrowly holding off Justin Williams with 45.5.

Winter League winner Richard Templeton had to settle for fourth place on the day, losing on the count-back to Justin.

However, it was not enough to stop Richard from being triumphant overall with 47 points. In second place was Justin Williams, 40, followed by Steve Trow in third with 30 and Richard Jones in fourth with 29.

The Rabbits and Tigers enjoyed a three ball Texas Scramble on Sunday with Paul Butterworth, Martin Ward and Richie Aymes taking the honours.

The golfing returns from local clubs

HENLLE

Monthly Medal Division 1: T Meehan 73-6-67; R Tattersall 80-1-69; C Williams 76-70; D Jones 82-8-69; D Williams 93-74; P Roberts 91-17-74; Division 2: S Roberts 95-23-72; R Hutton 100-26-74; J Parry 102-28-74.

Ladies Monthly Medal: P Tattersall 93-15-78; S Meehan 91-12-79; M Shelton 96-16-80.

Seniors' Annual Stableford Division 1: A Wright 40pts; A James 37pts; Division 2: J Horton 40pts, N Rusell 36pts; C Bardsley 36pts.

OSWESTRY

Medical Trophy, Football Better Ball Medal: R Jones & D Hughes 63; D Parry & A Shannon 63 (c/b); M Dickens & G Evans 64; A Gilbert & M Knapper 65 (c/b); N Wilson & C Colquhoun 65; P Turner & R Sinclair 66 (c/b).

Men's Spring Open: D Evans & R Speake (Worle) 63-69; C Williams & D Williams (Llanidloes) 63-69; J Hartshorn & J Hamilton (Worlefield) 42 (c/b); I Humphreys & P Jones (Llangollen / Shrewsbury) 42.

Ladies' Alice Kempster Rosebowl - Fouromes Medals: P Davies & E Aubrey 94-25-69; W Pugh & D Mottam 93-21-72; J Williams & D Hall 91-18-73; D Jones & M Brogden 92-18-74.

THE BROW

Take 2 Trophy: B Stoward 56-9-9-46-10; J Davies 61-13-88=47-14; K Abbott 60-11-88=48-12.

Sport

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Football
Latest from the
local leagues – P42

Rugby
Eagles soars to
another win – P43



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Llanfair get title boost as rivals beaten

BOSS Rhys Stephens is playing down Llanfair United's title prospects in the Spar Mid Wales League division one despite being handed an unexpected boost.

While the leaders were defeating

Twyn Bryncrug 2-0, their only realistic rivals Penrhyncoch suffered a shock 4-0 home loss to lowly Montgomery.

That victory saw Llanfair take a grip of the title race, and they now need five wins from their last eight outings to secure the crown.

"It was a fantastic day for us, a massive step towards the league for us, but there is still a long way to go," said Stephens whose side are four points ahead of Penrhyn, and with two games in hand.

"At Christmas, everyone had us winning the league, but all it needed was for us to lose one game, and our lead was down to four points and the title is wide open. So we're not getting carried away. Obviously it's advantage us, but we've got a tough game at Carno on Saturday."

"There's been some strange results this stage of the season, and we're keeping our feet on the ground, but if we can get past Carno, then we'll have a great chance. It's up to us to keep our nerve."

Llanfair still have to host Penrhyncoch on April 18, but the title race could well be over by then, although their closest rivals kept their alive their hopes in midweek with a 4-0 win over Twyn Bryncrug.

Having been dragged into the relegation scrap following a recent slide, BER-RIEW face a must-win clash at home to Aberaeron on Saturday.

"Time is running out for us and we need to win two out of our last three games at the very least to stand any chance," said manager Dave Jones. "Saturday is a massive game and will go a long way to determining our fate."

MONTGOMERY bid to maintain their push to safety at home to Machynlleth. Elsewhere, Llansantffraid Village bid to get back to winning ways against Bow Street at Treflan and Waterloo Rovers welcome relegation haunted Twyn Bryncrug.

Eagles looking to score Moore tries

OSWESTRY'S rugby players look to maintain their resurgence in the South Lanes and Cheshire Two on Saturday by healing further misery on Moore.

Having hammered Moore 66-0 a fortnight back at Granville Park, the Eagles will be confident of securing a quickfire double when they make the return trip to Cheshire.

Os maintained their momentum with a 29-7 victory over Ormskirk last Saturday, their fifth victory in six outings, to keep alive hopes of securing a third place finish, although promotion is now out of their reach.

After two weeks without a game, COBRA return to duty in the Swale League division one (north) with a home fixture against lowly Denbigh on Saturday as they look to push clear of the basement pack.

WELSHPOOL are also back in action in division three (north), and will be hoping to hit the points trail in their scheduled trip to rock bottom Holyhead.

New Saints will handle treble pressure

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints boss Craig Harrison admits his all-conquering side will be feeling the pressure as they bid to re-write the Welsh Premier history books in the coming weeks.

Although the Saints have landed the league crown, and also the Word Cup, there remains plenty to play for as the high-fliers chase a famous treble by also lifting the Welsh Cup.

On top of that, they also have their sights on going through the season unbeaten, and Harrison admits the pressure intensifies with every game his side plays.

TNS stand just six matches from recording an unique feat in Welsh domestic football, with four left in the league, while they are potentially

two away from retaining the Welsh Cup having reached the semi-finals.

It's now a case of ticking off the games, with Newtown the visitors to Park Hall in the league on Friday night (7.45pm) as the Saints look to preserve their proud unbeaten record at a venue where they have not lost since November 2012.

"We have already won the league and the cup, and are in the semi-final of the Welsh Cup, so whatever happens, it has been a fantastic season," said Harrison.

"Being a full-time team, there's always pres-

sure to win the league. Although we've done that, we're not thinking of our holidays just yet as the challenge now is to win three trophies and go through the whole season unbeaten."

"It will bring with it pressure, it's an exciting position to be in, but we mustn't let that distort our thoughts."

The Saints are at full strength, and have bolstered their squad by bringing back midfielder Ryan Edwards from his loan spell at Cefn Druids.

With the Saints having booked their place in the UEFA Champions League this summer, they will learn the identity of their opponents in the first qualifying round when the draw takes place in Switzerland on Monday, June 22.

Morgan off to Italy with rugby squad

PROMISING youngster Dan Morgan has been named in Rygby Gogled Cymru's (RGC) 24-player squad to compete in a top Italian tournament over Easter, writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.

The Oswestry Rugby Club winger will be joined by another former Eagles young gun Matt Gozzer, now with Church Stretton Samurai, in the prestigious Filippo Cantoni Tournament at Rugby Colorno near Parma in Northern Italy.

The tournament is held in memory of Filippo Cantoni, who was a talented local rugby player who had already played age grade rugby for Italy, but who was tragically killed in a car accident in January 2014.

RGC will join Staines Rugby Club (England) and Vineyard Boys Rugby Team (South Africa) as the overseas contingent who will also play Italian sides.

Morgan came to Oswestry as a novice player at under-14 and has put a huge amount of time and effort into rugby, the result being the massive strides in his rugby development.

He has tried a number of positions during his development, but has seen most success on the wing, having scored a number of tries for the club's successful junior colt side. At under-15, he was selected to play for Shropshire, playing against the other Midland counties.

Morgan joined the RGC under-16s Eastern squad last summer and has worked exceptionally hard to establish himself as a regular playing wing, where he is known as a tough tackler and hard ball carrier.

This saw him play in all of RGC's games against the other Welsh Development Regions at stadia such as Parc Eirias (Home of Wales under-20 during the Six Nations) and Cardiff Arms Park.

Gozzer, who currently plays as a second row forward, formerly played at Oswestry RFC in the under-12 to under-15 age groups in a number of positions.

Hockey side look to end on a high

OSWESTRY'S hockey players look to sign off their campaign in the West Midlands League division one in style on Saturday when they entertain Droitwich.

It has been a mixed season for Os who, having been realistic promotion challengers at one stage, have struggled to field teams in several outings, which saw them docked three points for failing to fulfil their fixture at Yardley a couple of weeks back.

They were again depleted last weekend in their 5-3 defeat at Pershore, which saw Oswestry slip to fifth place in the table.

Making the trip to a side lying third, it was always going to be a big ask for the visitors who could only field 10 players.

They battled hard, but just fell short despite a hat-trick from top scorer Jack Morgan who took his team's tally to 37.

Third placed Oswestry ladies, meanwhile, rounded off a creditable campaign in the Cheshire Womens Hockey League division two with a 2-0 away win at Tritton Ladies.

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

DISAPPOINTED Guilsfield boss Mike Parry insists his weary side still have plenty to play for this season despite seeing their Huws Gray Cymru Alliance title hopes shattered with back-to-back defeats.

The villagers had embarked on a 15-match unbeaten run stretching back to last November, comprising 11 wins and four draws to hang onto the coat-tails of league leaders Llandudno.

But, with the games coming thick and fast, the title outsiders faltered in the final straw, first suffering a 3-2 away to Denbigh Town before seeing their hopes dashed with a disappointing 2-1 loss at home to lowly Rhayader Town on Saturday.

Down to 10 men after having Nathan Leonard dismissed early on last weekend, the Guils took the lead through Chris Cathrall before succumbing to second half goals from Dave Easthope and Gavin Samuel in the space of five minutes.

And Parry, whose side head to lowly Llandrindod Wells on Saturday, admitted a gruelling run of games had weighed heavily on his players as tired legs and injuries took their toll.

"Five games in 15 days was too much, and the midweek games really hurt us," he said. "One of those went to extra time in the Central Wales Cup, and last Saturday we were down to 10 men for most of the game. We've now got to get back to winning again, and show our usual intensity, work ethic and pressing teams high."

And he added: "There's still a lot to play for as we can still finish second or third in the league, so it would still have been a terrific season, and there's also a chance to finish with a trophy as we're in the final the league cup next month."

The Guils take on Caersws in the final of the Huws Gray Cup at Porthmadog on Saturday, April 25.

Before then, the villagers have three league games, all away, against Llandrindod Wells, Penycae and Buckley Town to complete their Cymru Alliance campaign.

Ellesmere secure cup double



The Ellesmere College double sevens rugby winners with head coach Jon Morgan

ELLESMERES College's rugby players were in "seventh heaven" after clinching two sevens tournaments in a week – the Under-15 Adams Grammar and King's School Worcester Sevens.

The youngsters overcame Old Swinford Hospital 35-14 in the final to clinch glory in the Adams Tournament with the perfect record, having come through a dramatic semi-final to beat Church Stretton School 27-0.

The college also steamrollered their way through the group stages of the Worcester Sevens a few days earlier with wins against Wellington (52-7), King's School Worcester (37-14) and Solihull School (35-5) before recording an impressive 35-14 final victory against Lough-

borough Grammar School to record their second tournament win in a week.

Ellesmere College captain Tom Furnival commented: "We targeted these tournaments at the start of the sevens season and we knew with how well we've progressed as a sevens team that we could progress to at least the final. It's a great stepping stone for the boys."

Jon Morgan, head coach added: "The team found their form and played some excellent sevens style rugby, they managed to calmly keep hold of the ball for long periods and score some tremendous tries."

"This is a great achievement for the team and I am sure they can only get better."

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